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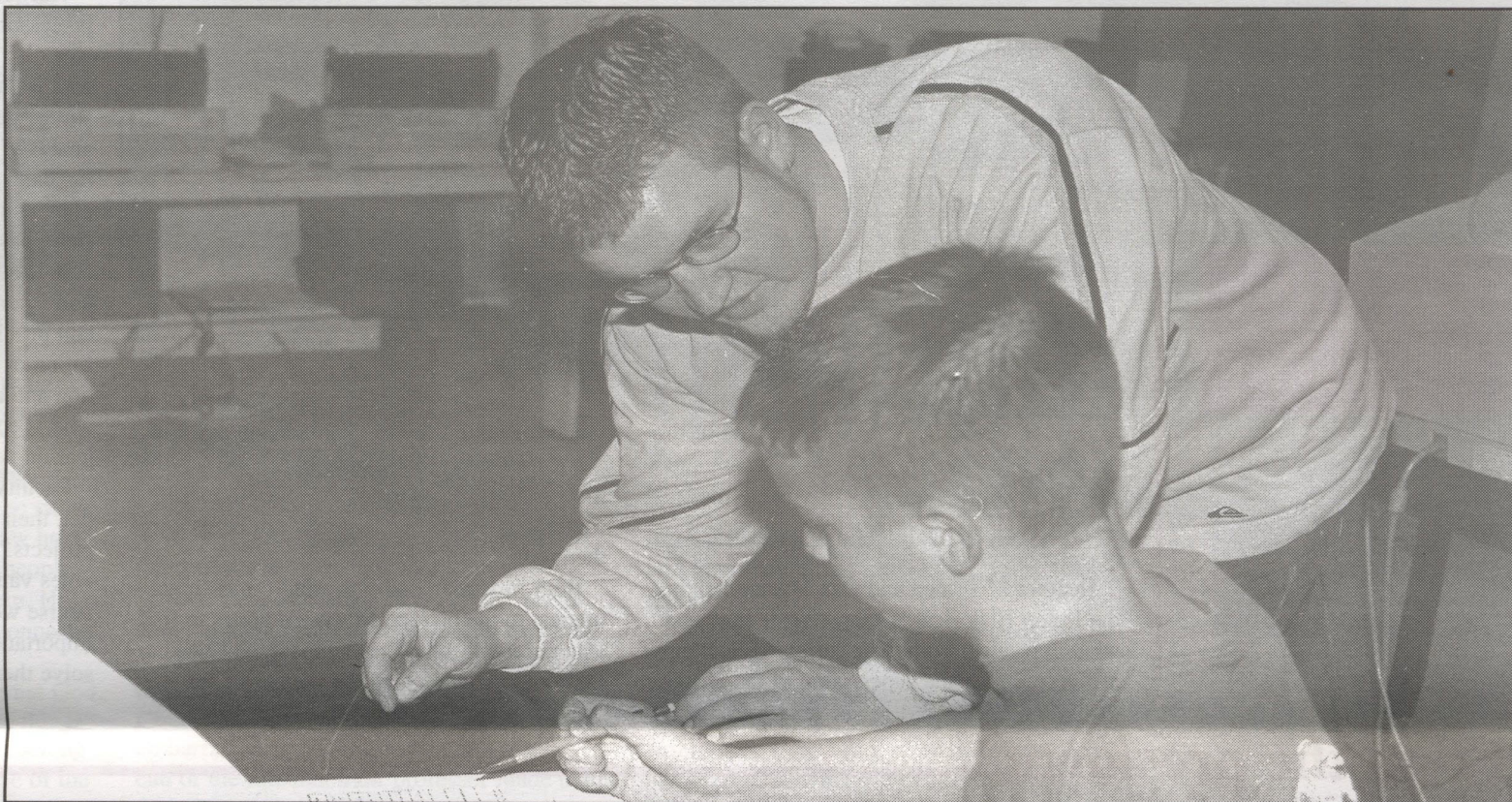
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the VOICIE

DORDT COLLEGE

SPRING 1999
VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3

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Senior Dan Blom helps a Sioux Center Christian School seventh grader through a test designed to determine how well the two hemispheres of the brain function as they respond to colors on a computer screen.

Students’ study benefits others too

Sally Jongsma

Some call service learning just another fad in education. Some see it as the wave of the future. Some say it’s been going on for years, informally.

Whatever the take on service learning, a group of faculty and students at Dordt are finding it a useful tool for structuring and giving credit for certain learning experiences. This semester, students in agriculture, psychology, history, and communication, among others, will receive service learning credit for work that connects their study with service to the community. A student is helping local farmers determine whether herbicides damage their soybeans. Members of one class are helping a small organization conduct research on a developmental brain abnormality in children. Two students are helping residents of a small rural community set up a museum. And two others are sketching a public relations campaign for a local charitable organization.

Each of these projects includes three essential elements: meeting a need of people in the community, gaining a deeper understanding of the problem through study and research, and reflecting on what has been learned.

Evan Wielenga, a senior agriculture major who also works part-time for a local farmers’ cooperative, is interested in plant protection. Farmers told him they suspected that certain post-emerge herbicides they were applying were not only killing the weeds but also damaging soybean plants and decreasing yields, despite chemical manufacturers’ claims to the contrary. Wielenga began a

study to confirm or refute these claims. He applied four different herbicides to two soybean plots, looking for differences between them and a hand-weeded plot.

Wielenga’s study was done as a service to local soybean growers, and his study did indicate that after applications of several post-emerge herbicides, soybean yield diminished significantly when compared to the hand-weeded plot:

Concert Herbicide: 6.0 bushels per acre less
Flexstar Herbicide: 3.9 bushels per acre less
Raptor Herbicide: 2.9 bushels per acre less
Roundup Herbicide: no significant difference

“At today’s commodity prices these yield reductions due to herbicide injury amount to figures as high as \$25 per acre,” Wielenga says. “With commodity prices as depressed as they are at present, this could represent the difference between profit and loss for the farmer.”

Wielenga’s results were shared with area soybean growers and agronomists, faculty and students of the agriculture department, and participants of the annual Colleges of Mid-America biology/chemistry seminar.

Agriculture Professor Ron Vos says the study was a good one and gave Wielenga the opportunity to use valuable research techniques as well as provide information to farmers. Vos notes that because Wielenga studies at Dordt he had more freedom to do such a study than he might have had at a larger university where funding by chemical companies might discourage such an investigation.

Five students in Dr. Paul Moes’ psychology research class are assisting the ACC Network.

ACC is the acronym for Agensis of the Corpus Callosum, a developmental brain abnormality in which the connecting “bridge” between the left and right hemispheres of the brain has not developed. Psychologists do not fully understand the implications of the abnormality yet, but do know that children with the disorder tend to have both learning and behavioral difficulties.

“Diagnosis of this disorder is relatively recent, made possible by the MRI,” says Moes. “Parents are told the diagnosis but don’t know what the outcome may be.”

Through Moes’ own research on the brain he came into contact with Gary and Kathy Schilmoeller, professional psychologists, whose child has ACC. They set up the ACC Network as a support group and source of information for parents of children diagnosed with ACC. The network receives office and computer space from the University of Maine but is otherwise supported strictly by donations. Moes and some of his colleagues in brain research had already committed to assisting the Schilmoellers when Moes decided to make it an option for his senior students.

Some students traveled with Moes to test children with ACC, using computer-based testing of behavioral capabilities, mental abilities tests, and questionnaires. They hope to develop a profile of those children that will help parents know what to anticipate for their child’s behavior.

Other students will help with a nationwide survey to further identify common behavioral, educational, emotional, and social needs of children with ACC. The results will be publicized in
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of our bounty



Heather Moerman and Dan Vos are learning about Sioux County history and museum management as they help the community of Ireton.

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scientific literature and distributed to parents who are part of the network.

"It's rare for researchers to have something so compelling and immediate to work on," says Moes. Students who help with the testing develop a sense of the need for research and a desire to supply some real answers to these parents, he adds. And they learn important research techniques and strategies.

Heather Moerman and Dan Vos are helping the Ireton Historical Society decide how and what to catalog from their current collection of artifacts. Under the supervision of Dr. Hubert

Krygsman, Moerman and Vos are taking an independent study titled "Introduction to Collection Management." They will begin organizing and preserving the current collection of items as well as produce a practical guide for volunteers to maintain and expand the collection in the future. In the process they will also investigate possible sources of funding and ways the museum can better serve the public.

Both Moerman and Vos bring professional interest to the project. Moerman hopes to find a career in museum management, and Vos has library experience working with archives.

Krygsman hopes that in addition to giving the Ireton Historical Society the tools to organize their collection, Moerman and Vos will gain a better appreciation for sources and documents—where they come from and what they tell.

"It should give a better understanding of the importance of historical perspective for local people and of the importance of a usable past. You don't see much of that in a formal course," he adds.

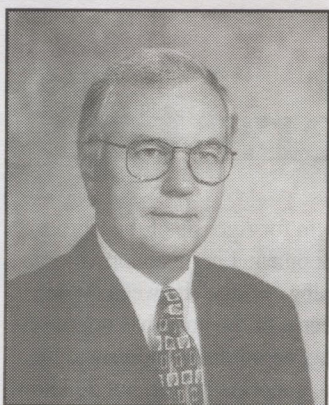
Renee Holwerda and Sean Gregg are working with the Family Crisis Center of Northwest Iowa on a public relations project that will include a preliminary audience analysis and a proposed PR campaign. The Family Crisis Center believes that the general public is not fully aware of the services they provide. Because of limited funding and staffing they are unable to devote as much time as they would like to this part of their operation.

Holwerda and Gregg meet with their professor, Dr. Daryl Vander Kooi, once a week. At present they are designing a survey and, in the process, learning more about survey design, sampling procedures, and data analysis. They will create the survey, analyze the data, develop a five-year public relations plan, and help the organization implement the first phases of it this spring.

In this project, as in the three others, everybody gains. Students have a timely and important problem to work through, and the organization or community receives needed information and assistance, says Dr. Willis Alberda, who is coordinating and encouraging service learning on campus.

Faculty supervisors of these projects agree that their students benefit greatly from such projects. As Moes says, service learning provides valuable motivation for students' other course work too, because they see the concrete importance of mastering the skills needed to solve these problems.

From the president



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

Is it worth the cost?

The high school student sitting across the desk from me was earnest and intense. "Just why should I attend a Christian college?" His high school research project required an investigation of college options and so he figured I was a good place to start.

First, we had to clear away a few misconceptions. "Why would you go anywhere else?" was my question in return. He had a couple of answers, starting with, "Better professors and more courses." He had been struck by the big name professors at some other institutions and the vast array of courses in their catalog.

I took the easy question first and asked this young man just how many courses he thought he could take in the four years he intended to spend at college. Somewhere between thirty-six and forty seemed to be a reasonable answer. "Well then," I responded, "it seems to me that you should be most interested in whether the college has the forty courses you actually want to take. After all, it really doesn't make much difference whether a college has 400, 4000 or conceivably 40,000 courses that you don't have time to attend. Keep your eye on the three dozen courses that will provide you with the type of education you need to grow in the knowledge of God's world and prepare for service in Christ's kingdom."

The second question about professors was tougher because I never want to belittle another educational institution and certainly not their stellar professors. At the same time, I carry in my travel case an article from the April 20, 1998, edition of *USA Today*. Written by Mary Beth Marklein, it's titled simply "Undergrads Neglected, Report Says." The article quotes a

study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching that says (among its kinder observations) that "most undergraduate programs at research institutes offer 'boring' freshman courses taught either by . . . graduate students . . . or 'tenured drones' lecturing from yellowed notes." Whether you agree with that assessment or not, my own advice is to sit in on a few freshman classes at the university you're considering and check out whether the instruction really lives up to your expectations.

Then the question of cost came up. I know there are a wide range of colleges available and all have their strengths. Still, when it comes to cost, you always have to ask, "Compared to what?"

Sometimes high school students compare costs with two-year colleges. According to 1996 U.S. Census Bureau figures, a graduate of a two-year college program will probably earn an average of \$250,000 in her or his lifetime over that of a high school only graduate. However, the average graduate of a four-year college will increase his or her lifetime income by another \$400,000 over the two-year graduate.

I don't want to leave the impression that I think every high school graduate needs to go to college in order to fulfill God's calling in life. Nor would I want to belittle two-year degrees—Dordt College offers several of them, and I hope that soon we'll be offering more. But what better place to gain a two-year degree than at a comprehensive Christian college such as Dordt College.

At other times, high school students compare our college costs to that of a government-run

college or university that charges lower tuition rates. Here I like to point out that, at least in Iowa, the average debt load for a graduate of a state university is higher than that for graduates of the independent colleges. That's partly because graduates from small independent colleges tend to graduate in four years at significantly higher rates than do students at state-run schools. Even more significant, once you factor in the room and board charges that are comparable with the state schools and add in other non-tuition costs, it turns out that many students will find that their bottom line expenses at the government school are close to what they would pay at a college such as Dordt College with its generous financial aid packages.

In summary, I tried to assure the young man who visited me that, when comparing costs, the old maxim still is true: "You really do tend to get what you pay for."

After all, education as a child of God, personal development as a citizen of God's kingdom, and skill acquisition aimed at effective living among the people of God never comes for free. The key question, then, isn't, "How much does it cost?" Instead we ought to be asking, "Is it worth the cost?" Only after that question is answered, should anyone start to ask "Can I afford the cost?" (And even then, you should talk with the college financial aid office before you ask the question.)

Thinking back now, I'm not sure I ever had the chance to read this student's final paper. I was pleased, however, to run into him again the next August as a newly enrolled student at Dordt College. I hope he'll always consider that investment to be worthwhile.

Many students will find that their bottom line expenses at the government school are pretty close to what they would have had to pay at a college such as Dordt College.

Ministering to multi-ethnic groups

Sally Jongsma

Mission work happens "out there," right? Not exclusively, says Tom Soerens of Dordt's theology department. Northwest Iowa—or wherever you live—is as open for outreach as remote areas of the world.

Today, culture wars and immigration are creating new missions opportunities, he says, adding, "Even prairie towns are becoming cultural mosaics."

Soerens is teaching his students how to work with such opportunities in a special topics course this semester titled "Discipling the Nations: Ministry to Multi-Ethnic Groups." The focus is on how to do missions where you are, he says.

Soerens begins by exposing his students to what he calls mission thinking—a scriptural perspective on God as a missionary God.

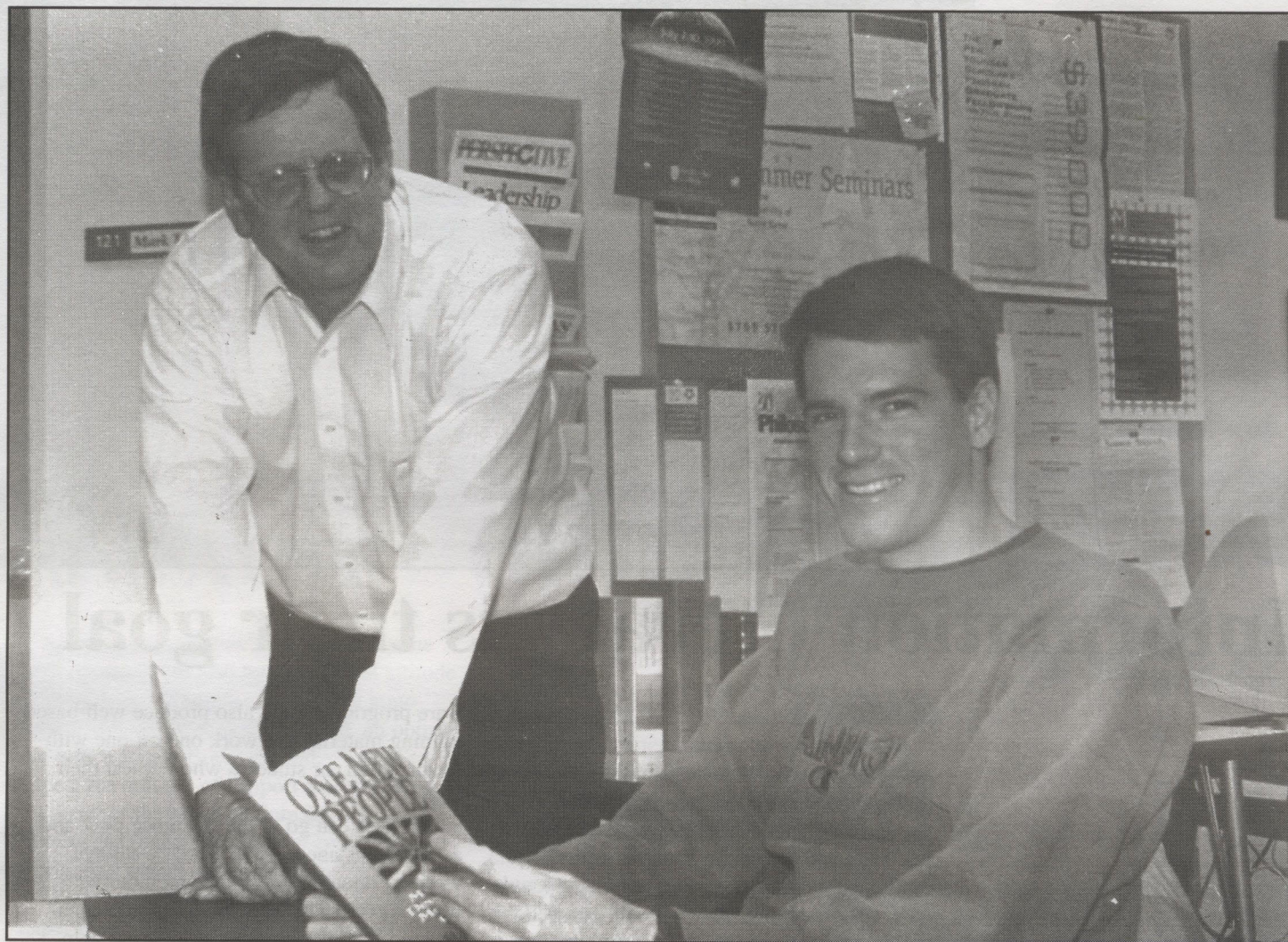
"Scripture shows God's concern to have his people made up of a variety of cultures and languages," says Soerens. He helps students see the necessity of stepping out of their sometimes comfortable churches and communities in order to reach out to those in the broader community around them.

"The really interesting and ironic thing about doing mission work is that often by the time we start thinking about it, God already has stuff set up for us," he says. That's exactly what happened when he came to Sioux Center two years ago. He saw how many Asians had been connected to people and churches who had sponsored them. He also found many Hispanics already connected to Spanish speakers and tutors.

"The fun of it is to have eyes for what God is doing already and try to help move things further along." He believes that approaching missions in this light takes away some of the fear and apprehension that often hinders people from sharing the gospel and discipling others.

Once his students see things from that perspective, they are ready to learn more about the community in which they live.

"Missions is really the branch of theology where we get to do hands-on research," Soerens tells his students. For this course they were assigned to talk with anyone who knew



Professor Tom Soerens worked as a missionary in Latin America before coming to Sioux Center.

anything about Hispanic or Asian groups in the community.

"One class period I took a cellular phone along and handed it to a student as we came up with names of people who might be able to give us some information," he says. Chuckling, he adds, "I tell them if they feel embarrassed to tell the person on the other end of the line that their professor made them do it. They do, too."

Based on both informal and formal research, Soerens and his students found surprising numbers of Hispanic and Asian people in this rural region. They compiled their findings in a report which they are now presenting to the evangelism committees of local CRC and RCA churches. In addition to giving these committees demographic information they can use, the groups of students are also

talking with them about mission opportunities and how they might follow up on this information.

In the meantime, having completed the research, the class is now putting together a missions strategy document that develops a ministry program for the region spanning from Sioux City, Iowa, to Worthington, Minnesota, both sixty miles from Sioux Center. According to Soerens, the class hopes to produce a document that they can share on a classical level and that any church or evangelism committee could adopt and use.

At the point that class input ends, churches will have to determine to what extent they are ready to participate, says Soerens.

"Sometimes it requires thinking of the church as a group mobilized for service rather than as a place," he says. "Third World churches have been forced by their circumstances to see themselves that way for some time, but North Americans have in the past assumed that people around them were already Christian. That is not the case today." The challenge can be scary or invigorating, he says, depending on how much a church wants to act like the church in Acts, with its members actively discipling those with whom they come into contact.

Soerens also provides a role model for his students. Once a week he meets with a group of Asian people, training them for pastoral work. He teaches them an introductory theology course so that, when they are finished, they can teach and disciple others.

"There are principles for doing missions that apply whether you are in Honduras or Hull," Soerens says. Students need to learn those principles if they are to be leaders in their communities after they leave Dordt. Through the hands-on work students have done in this course they are gaining the tools. Mid-point in the course, the response is positive.

"Students are calling people long-distance at their own expense to get more information so they can do a better job of their assignments," he says. He hopes they will carry the enthusiasm and knowledge with them as they settle into communities across North America and the world.

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“
Students don't
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them a lot of time.
”

Emily Lund and Gwen Vos help
Dordt faculty and students make
better use of campus technology.



Information literacy is their goal

Sally Jongsma

Being part of a society that is so information rich does not mean that it is easily accessible, says David Netz, vice president for information services. “The Pentiums on campus are fun, but many people need assistance to be able to use them well.”

That's the task of Gwen Vos ('96) and Emily Lund ('93), members of Dordt's library staff. Although Vos and Lund also help staff the reference desk, their main responsibility is to help both students and faculty understand the complexity of the information world as it is available on campus.

They do so by conducting regular workshops and developing handouts and manuals for many of the most commonly used soft-

ware programs. They also produce web-based training material and work one-on-one with faculty, staff, or students who request their help.

“Anyone can go to the reference desk and ask for assistance,” says Netz, “a student working on a project, a staff member who wants to find a better way to accomplish a task, or a faculty member who wants help with e-mail or a class list.”

Lund and Vos offer workshops for all freshmen in English 101 classes each semester, introducing them to the college's system and software. They demonstrate how to use available search engines, word processing, databases, and other functions.

“It's a bit harder to keep upperclass students up-to-date as changes are made,” says Netz.

But they have as much access to Lund and Vos as anyone else. All they need to do is ask.

Yet most of Vos's and Lund's work is in response to faculty and staff requests.

“Students are more willing to experiment and play with a program until they figure out what they need than faculty are,” says Vos. “Students don't always realize that we could save them a lot of time. And they sometimes think they are a lot more computer literate than they really are,” she adds with a bit of a smile.

“We know several small things that really make writing a paper easier, for example,” adds Lund.

Some of the most popular workshops recently have been on Netscape e-mail features, creating web pages, and searching in Netscape and the library database.

“Classes usually fill up quickly,” says Lund. Over Christmas break they offered twenty sessions and had more than 150 participants. After a series of such workshops, their work load usually increases for a time as people try to implement what they have learned.

To help others keep up with the technology, Vos and Lund must spend a good deal of time keeping up themselves. Whenever a change in software is made or when the college makes a new software program available to the campus, they must learn it well enough to teach others. Both enjoy that part of their job.

“I've always liked learning new things,” says Vos. “There's a sense of satisfaction that comes with helping someone master a new skill or tool.” Lund, who taught middle school for several years, says she enjoys seeing people improve a project by learning a few simple skills. Building on her education experience with Macintoshes, she is the designated assistant for the thirty Macs on campus.

“It's a challenge to keep abreast, but teaching is something I enjoy,” says Lund.

“I'm continually amazed at how much information there is available. I find it satisfying to pare it down into pieces that are accessible and share it with others,” adds Vos.

Wangerin tells stories about stories

Kirstin Vander Giessen

Signs decorated campus bulletin boards weeks in advance, advertising a chapel, a reading, and a lecture, all to occur in one day. Dr. James Schaap was looking forward to Walter Wangerin Jr.'s visit.

“Wangerin is a widely sought speaker and writer,” Schaap says. Schaap, who's taking a year from teaching to write, says that he and Wangerin arranged a swap—Wangerin would come to Iowa and Schaap would go to Indiana.

“He's a committed Christian writer with a large readership ... and because he's a preacher, he's a very good lecturer,” says Schaap, who hoped that Wangerin's reading and lecture would not only draw students and professors, but community members as well.

A former pastor at an inner-city Lutheran church in Evansville, Indiana, Wangerin is also a renowned writer. His most popular work of literature is *The Book of the Dun Cow*, which won the National Book Award in 1980. He has also written a number of other novels and children's books, and is a regular columnist for the magazine published by the Lutheran Church.

In chapel, “Wangerin told a story of his own hesitant and timid ministering to a man he might have easily hated, as a way of illustrating the blessings that come even from unwilling service, the love that results from serving unlovely people as Christ's servants,” explains Dr. Anthony Dykema-Vander Ark, who asked his students to attend Wangerin's

activities as part of his contemporary novel class. Other professors also encouraged students to attend, including four who taught *The Book of the Dun Cow* as part of their curriculum this semester.

That afternoon, Wangerin spoke to students, professors, and community members on how stories relate to children. He also explained the way in which he began to tell stories. As a six-year-old, he was convinced that there was a robber under the bed he shared with his five-year-old brother, a robber who would only come out if he knew that the boys were asleep. So Walter told stories to his brother to let the robber know that they were still awake. Otherwise he risked seeing the robber come out from under the bed, ravage the Wangerin household, and kill the entire family. “This is the definition of a writer,” said Wangerin. “He tells stories to save lives.” He used one of his own books, *In the Beginning, There Was No Sky*, as well as stories about his own children to illustrate his point that stories do not exist to teach children lessons. Rather, stories should continue things that children already think and honor the child's way of solving problems.

“I liked his point that stories tell children, ‘You're not crazy. Your feelings and beliefs about the world are valid,’” says Vander Ark. “Clearly, he wanted the adults in his audience to hear the same thing.”

The final activity for the day was a lecture in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Here, Wangerin spoke to a large audience

about the storyteller's responsibility to console, to shape, and to name. By telling personal stories to illustrate each point and by explaining how each individual functions as a storyteller, Wangerin drew the audience in and avoided limiting the relevance of his ideas. We all console, he said, by sharing what is youthful in us with those who are older in a way that is not arrogant. We shape by taking a mess and making sense of it. He related this concept to Old English poets who could take a tragedy and turn it into a familiar song that embodied the essence of a person or an event rather than the individual details. Wangerin's final point was that we have the power to name. As humans, we have the God-given power to name something, to bring it into knowing, and it is this power that allows us to have relationships and community.

“I liked what Wangerin had to say about the storyteller,” says Vander Ark, “and any artist, really, creating spaces where we as readers can dwell, where we can find order and meaning in our own experiences. Wangerin described the storyteller as shaping reality in such a way that those who read and enter a story might find a new or renewed vision or understanding of their own lives.”

Wangerin seemed to take his own advice in his short time here by drawing people into his ideas with stories. By practicing both his art of speaking and his art of storytelling, Wangerin drew large crowds and created a rewarding experience for everyone.

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Jason Vande Brake played the lead role in *Macbeth* last fall.

Students succeed at ACTF

Kirstin Vander Giessen

Unlike last year's participants, whose most memorable ACTF moment was sliding off the icy highway and into a ditch en route to the festival, this year's students have a more positive tale to tell.

For the second time in Dordt College's history of participating in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, a student succeeded in advancing to the final round. Jason Vande Brake was selected to compete for his work in *The Good Person of Setzuan* last spring. He was one of sixteen students to perform on the night of January 20. These sixteen had already been selected from approximately 230 students in the preliminary round and thirty-six in the semi-finals.

James Addink also made a successful showing at the festival in the design exposition, in which he received second place for his set design work on last spring's student-directed play, *The Honorable Urashima Taro*. Also participating in the acting competition were Jill Schemper and Josh Buys, nominated for their performances in *Macbeth* and Joanne Kim for her role in *The Good Person of Setzuan*.

Professor Jerelyn Schelhaas was a coach and chaperone for this year's participants. Schelhaas thought that this year's performers were less nervous and apprehensive about competing, and she attributes this to thorough preparation. All of the competitors were required to prepare a presentation that included a monologue and a scene that was under five minutes long.

"The students had rehearsed and knew what they wanted from their performances," said Schelhaas. "They knew what to expect from each other. They wanted to win, but they also just wanted the experience."

Schelhaas was not only impressed by the performances, but also by the general attitude of the actors. "There's a supportive atmosphere among the actors," she said, an opinion which Vande Brake echoed. "I didn't expect the amount of support that was shown by many of the other participants," he said. "I received many encouraging comments from other actors and professors."

"The final performance was an amazing experience," said Vande Brake. At that point, he was competing for a spot in the competition at the Kennedy Center in June. Each year, only two actors from the final sixteen move on to that level. "I didn't expect to make it to the final round," said Vande Brake. "I was confident with my pieces, but the competition was so stiff that I didn't think of it as a real possibility. I've never performed in front of so many people! It was great to share what Adam and I had prepared with such a large crowd. . . . In addition to showing the judges and audience that I could act, I also wanted to present them with a few minutes of meaningful theater, and I think my pieces allowed me to do that." Vande Brake's pieces were both comedic but focused on serious issues: his monologue was on the afterlife and his scene with Adam Smit considered the existence of angels.

After the competition was complete, students participated in a number of workshops and saw many plays. "I felt the whole thing was a good experience for everyone," said Vande Brake, "and people there were interested in discussing important questions: why we do theater, what its purpose is, why excellence in the theater is necessary, etc. This festival really increased my interest in and passion for the theater. The whole experience made me realize that a career in acting is by no means unachievable."

Larson elected to state social work board

Junior Angela Larson from Omaha, Nebraska, was elected this summer to a year-long term as the BSW student representative on the board of the Iowa chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Nominated last spring by Dordt's social work professors, Larson's role is to serve as the voice of social work students in Iowa, to work as a liaison between students and the national board as they seek to understand the needs of vulnerable people and communities in Iowa.

"I was unaware of how vital a role the NASW plays in the social work profession and of how much I could contribute," Larson

says. "As a social worker committed to working to eradicate social injustice, I have learned how vital it is to become actively involved at the policy-making level, to speak for those who have no voice and to empower them to work toward change."

Larson will attend regular meetings of the Iowa NASW even though she is spending the semester on the Chicago Metropolitan Program in an internship at the Marjorie Kovler Center. The Center gives treatment to survivors of torture in Third World countries. After she graduates, Larson hopes to work with immigrants and refugees, helping them adjust to life in the United States.

Web site brings home a bronze

Kirstin Vander Giessen

After receiving several awards in past years for calendars and promotional materials, Dordt snagged a bronze award this year for its new web site in a regional competition sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

"I didn't enter it expecting to win," said Jim De Young, director of public relations. De Young mainly wanted to get some expert opinions on how successful the current design was in comparison to other college and university sites in the region. Dordt belongs to region six, which includes eight states and 250 institutions, all of whom are eligible for the competition.

De Young was pleasantly surprised, however, when the site received the bronze award, coming in even with Iowa State's Student Answer Center web site and just behind Iowa State's College of Design and Iowa State's general sites and Wichita State University. "I don't think ours is as glitzy as some," said De Young, "[but] I think ours is strong in two areas. First, we have a nice clean design. From a visual standpoint, it's a pretty attractive, clean page. Second, it's pretty comprehensive. There's a lot there." De Young also noted that, unlike other college and university sites, everything on Dordt's site works. Links and menus take viewers where they need to go with few technical glitches. "We have been fortunate to find very good students to allow us to build a good web site without an intensive investment of resources," said De Young.

The student responsible for the design is sophomore Jeremy Jongsma. Jongsma worked on the site full-time last summer and works part-time with computer services currently.

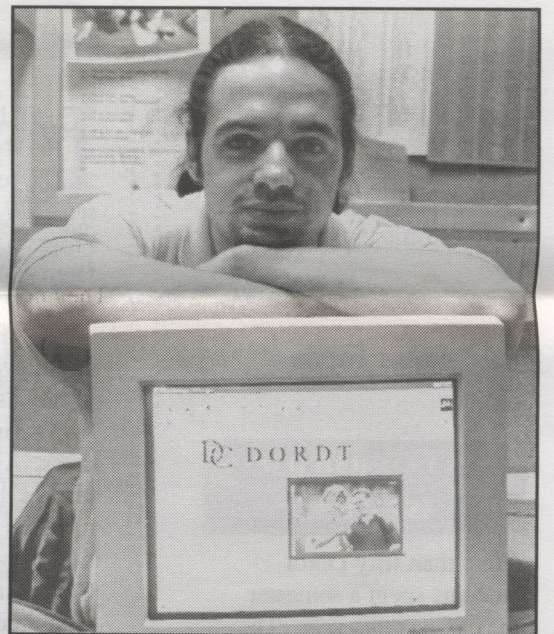
"I hadn't done much with web design before," said Jongsma. "I experimented with designs and had Jim De Young and others look at them and suggest changes." After coming up with an initial design last summer, the site went through a rigorous process of criticism and modification.

"When we first put it on-line, we selected about fifty people to give their response to the site," said Jongsma. These people included incoming and current students, alumni, and a few design professionals. The result can be seen now at <http://www.dordt.edu>.

"I think in terms of simplicity and navigation, Dordt's ranks above many sites I've seen," said Jongsma. "It's simple, it's easy to navigate, and it still has a lot of information. That was one of the primary concerns for the site."

Dordt also puts a lot of emphasis on keeping the on-line events calendar up to date. "It's really easy for alumni to keep in touch with the information on-line and stay involved in the campus," Jongsma adds.

Not only are Dordt students winning CASE awards for their design work, but the Iowa State College of Design is benefiting from alumni experience. Ben Meyer ('94) is employed full-time with the university, where he just completed his MFA in graphic arts and animations. The site which he helped design won a silver award in the same category as Dordt's site.



Jeremy Jongsma redesigned Dordt's web site this summer.

CCCU Tuition Survey

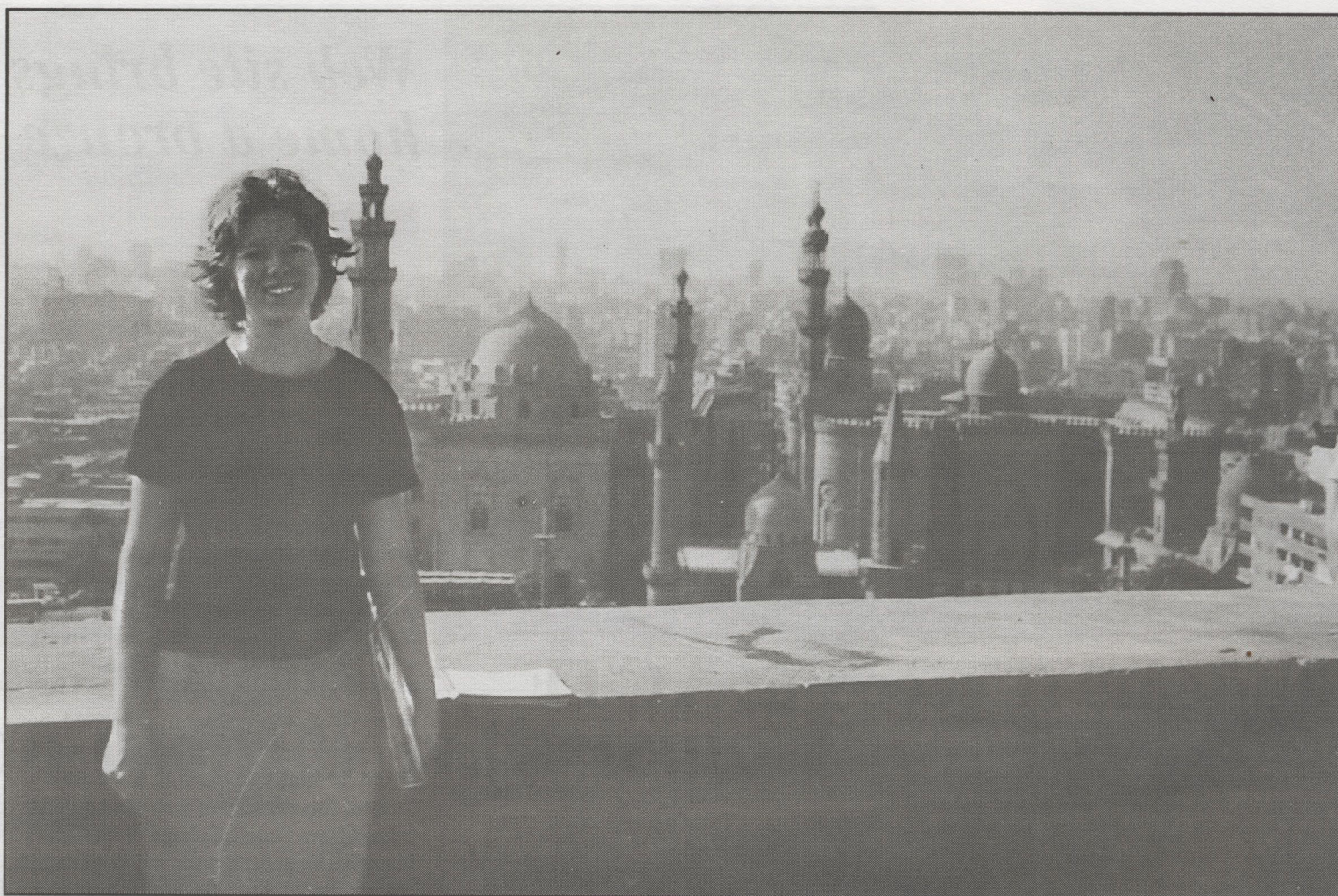
Quentin Van Essen, director of admissions, recently shared the results of a Council of Christian Colleges and Universities tuition survey. Dordt ranks thirty-seventh out of the ninety CCCU institutions reporting. Dordt's tuition is about \$600 above the mean CCCU tuition rate. Its tuition increases over the last four years have been below the average CCCU tuition increases.

“

My world is so much bigger. I've been on mission projects that got me out of my community, but this was much more.

”

Livija Shannon says the semester in the Middle East was culturally broadening but also very challenging academically.



Semester in Middle East opens students' eyes

Sally Jongsma

I still have trouble wearing a tank top to the Rec Center," says Livija Shannon as she reflects on her experience last semester in Cairo on the Middle East Studies Program. In Cairo, Shannon and fellow Dordt student Lisa Ochsner became accustomed to wearing long pants and skirts and, at minimum, a T-shirt as they immersed themselves in Middle Eastern culture.

"It was not an oppressive feeling, though," says Shannon about the expectations for dress. As they came to understand and respect the people there, they also were eager to honor their customs. They were two of twenty-one students on the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities' Middle East Studies Program.

For both Shannon and Ochsner the experience is still almost too big to put into words. It opened up their world, gave them a new perspective on their own lives, deepened their faith, and expanded their knowledge of the Middle East situation in ways they could never have imagined.

Why would a business major and an elementary education major choose to spend a semester in the Middle East?

"I felt a real restlessness," says Ochsner. "I

needed a change. I needed to get out of my comfort zone. God led me there."

Shannon used the same word—a restlessness combined with a growing interest in the Middle East. She participated in a trip last summer to Israel with Ray Vander Laan ('73) and wanted to know more about the people and the conflicts in the Middle East. Two history courses in Middle East history further fueled her interest.

Their restlessness has now turned into a passion for learning and living.

"I have such a desire to learn," says Ochsner, "about other cultures, about the people I live with, about my faith. Going away showed me that I have the ability to do whatever God calls me to." Learning about and interacting with Muslims and living with Arab Christians also strengthened her faith and made her feel more deeply the importance of her relationship to Christ, she says.

Shannon, too, talks about how the experience not only gave her a deep appreciation for the people she met and for Islamic culture, but it convicted her in a concrete way of the tremendous need for the gospel to be told in those countries.

"Interviewing Muslims, visiting mosques, and learning the proud history of this faith challenged our group of Christians to re-examine our own faith and beliefs. I moved from an abstract concept of 'millions of Muslims' to suddenly crying for the grace of God in the life of a girl down the hall. In many ways so close to the truth, Islam rejects the gospel out of hand," says Shannon.

The women became much more aware during their stay of the implications of being a Christian. In Egypt if you are born a Christian you are tolerated even though you may never reach the top echelons of society. However, if you convert to Christianity from Islam you can legitimately be put to death. Living as a Christian in such a culture is more difficult—and possibly life threatening. Observing the hardships and the sacrifices Middle Eastern Christians must make for their faith made Shannon and Ochsner take their faith more seriously, too.

"At home I worry about getting a paper done and getting to a meeting and being too busy, but in the Middle East Christian

students have so much more to be concerned about," says Ochsner. "I don't ever want to take my life so for granted again."

"People there really struggle with whether to leave and live a safer life or stay and influence those around them," adds Shannon.

Yet the experiences and conversations they shared with their Muslim neighbors also taught them many good things. They came to value the dependence on and care for others that Middle Eastern people have—a contrast to the more independent and individualistic emphasis they've grown accustomed to in America.

"Even taxi drivers made sure we got to the right place, and everyone was friendly and eager to help," says Shannon. She still gets weekly calls from the son of the family with whom she stayed in Cairo. Since he is studying in the United States, he checks to see if she still remembers her Arabic, and whether she is well or needs any help.

But the most eye-opening and in a sense disheartening aspect of the semester was realizing how naively uninformed they were and most North Americans are about Middle East politics, history, and culture.

"We realized we'd made many assumptions based on knowing only one side of the issue," says Shannon, adding, "Two years ago I assumed Israel was a land of religious Jews looking for a place to live in peace." Instead, she says, they found that most Israelis were not religious, and that they have mistreated their Palestinian neighbors.

Shannon and Ochsner talked with people every day—in refugee camps and on the street, with officials and college students, to people who had grown up there and to those who had not.

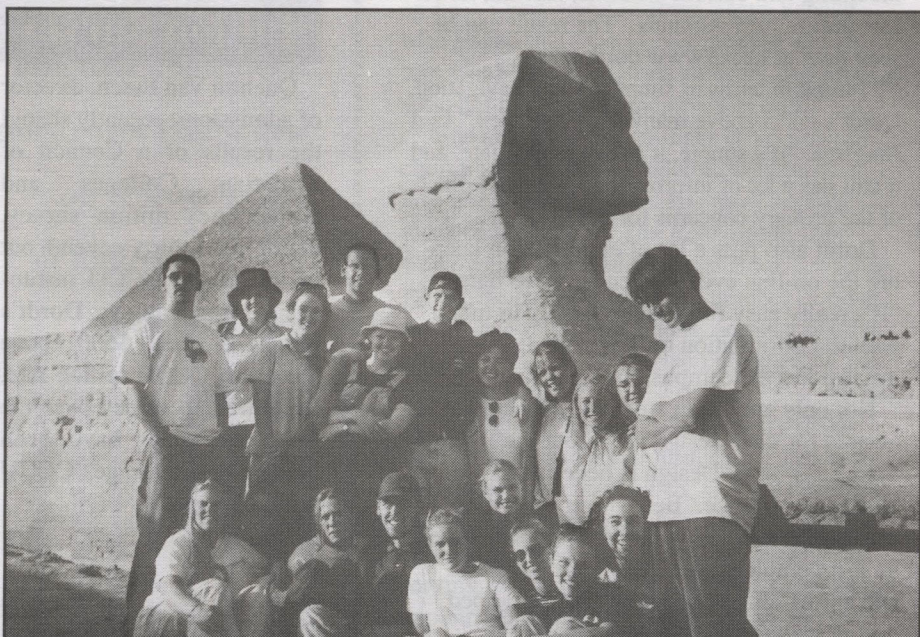
"I found it difficult not to be angry with those who educate—or more accurately don't educate us—about issues relating to Palestinians and Israelis," says Shannon, who had already had many of her preconceptions changed in her Middle Eastern history courses before she arrived in Cairo.

"It left me drained and confused but also energized and challenged," says Ochsner.

"We spoke to Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians. We saw refugee camps and settlements, oppression, discrimination, and

Off-Campus study

More than fifty Dordt students spent a semester off campus this year. They participated in eight different programs.



Students on the Middle East Studies Program come from a variety of Christian colleges.

abuse of power. At times we were ashamed to be Americans. By the end we were empowered by knowledge and convicted to share what we had learned," adds Shannon.

The semester was academically challenging as well. Students spent eight hours a week in Arabic classes throughout the semester. They also took three courses focusing on Middle Eastern culture: "Islamic Thought and Practice," "People and Cultures," and "Conflict and Change." And they participated in many field trips—through Coptic Cairo, to the Red Sea and Mt. Sinai; then ten days in Israel visiting places such as Tel Aviv, the Golan Heights, the Jordan River, Jerusalem, the Western Wall, the Dead Sea, the Negev, and Hebron; back to Cairo and Luxor to study the remains of the Pharaohs; and finally a two-week tour of Amman, Jordan; Damascus, Syria; and Antioch, Cappadocia, Ankara, and Istanbul, Turkey.

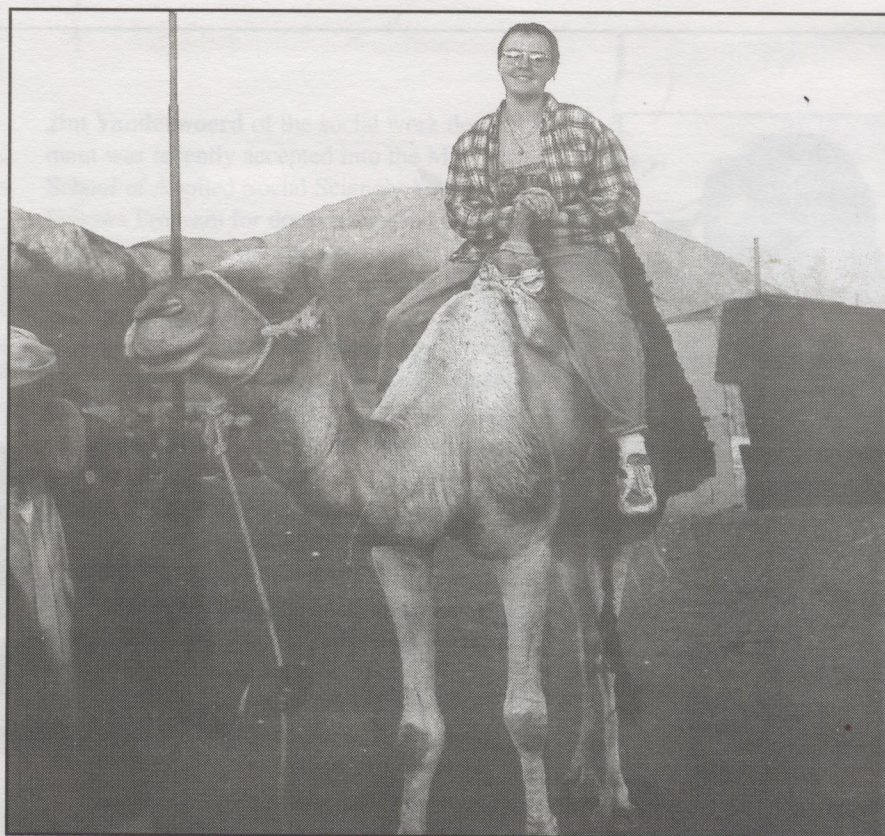
When asked about safety, both responded quickly that although there were things they had to get used to—such as living in a police state with armed guards on street corners—as long as they honored the culture they felt

safe. The program directors kept in close touch with each of them and, if need be, could have all participants leave the country within twenty-four hours.

Asking them to cite the highlight of the experience brings dead silence and a look of helplessness. Shannon finally says, "There are too many to list." They start naming places and people and even cite surviving crossing the street daily in Cairo. But then the women get more philosophical: being so challenged; being mentally exhausted but not wanting to quit; realizing with an incredible sense of accomplishment that as a westerner you've learned how to participate in the culture.

"My world is so much bigger," says Ochsner. "I've been on missions projects that got me out of my community, but this was more."

"My day-to-day attitude has changed," says Shannon. "I really don't get as upset by little things, because there are so many more important things to think and worry about. I hope God will use my passion to inspire others to visit another part of the world." And, she would probably add, be an influence on those around them.



Lisa Ochsner says her semester in the Middle East challenged her in ways she never expected.

AMOR does more than build

Kirstin Vander Giessen

Not only did Hurricane Georges dramatically alter the landscape in the Caribbean, it also altered the pattern of this year's AMOR program.

After planning the annual AMOR trip to Nicaragua, Pastor Don Draayer received a call for workers in the Dominican Republic. An e-mail to students assured him that there was plenty of interest in forming another AMOR group.

Once in the Dominican, the larger group split into two. One group did finishing work on a school, which included interior and exterior painting on the building run by Youth for Christ in Los Alcarizos.

"It was definitely a team effort," said Michelle De Vries. "We all found jobs we were good at, and we worked well together."

In addition to playing and singing with and telling stories to local children too poor to go to school, the group visited a hospital, a school, and worshiped with local people.

"We were welcomed into their churches," said De Vries. "This trip really challenged me to think about what we mean by 'the church.' God's church is the body of believers all around the world worshipping in different languages, singing different sounding songs, sitting in different chairs or benches, but all praising the same God." De Vries was most struck by this when the group visited a church where they were greeted in English and treated to special music by a young boy and his sister.

"The boy started playing music that was Caribbean in style," explained De Vries. "We were really into it, clapping and almost dancing in the rows, but then he started singing a familiar song, 'Lord, I Lift Your Name on High.' It was so awesome to sing the same song in different languages, but praising the same God who created us all to glorify and praise his holy name."

The second Dominican group didn't have as much opportunity to interact with local people but had diversity within their own group, which represented three generations—students, parents, and grandparents. The group's primary task was to rebuild a school, already in bad shape before Hurricane Georges.

"We didn't do as much outreach as I expected," said Brenda Vander Vies.

However, "the people were very friendly. The kids would try to talk to us, but we never had a clue what they were saying. We'd hand out candy to the kids and they'd always come back asking for more."

Although the language barrier was a problem in getting to know the citizens, it wasn't a factor in communicating with another group of twelve from Ontario who were there working on the same building.

"We had a worship service together beside the ocean with the waves crashing on the rocks," said Vander Vies. "We got to know each other better and see the majesty and power of creation."

Vander Vies's grandparents, Jake and Corrie Groenberg, also participated in the project, staying two weeks longer than the students. "Grandpa had been a carpenter for years," said Brenda, "so he basically told us what to do."

"She sort of volunteered me," said Jake. The Groenbergs have participated in a number of mission projects with Wycliffe, CRWRC, and the Mennonites across the U.S. and Canada. However, this was their first experience in a Third World country.

"I'm glad we did it because it was a real eye-opener," said Corrie. "We saw how poor the people were and how much they needed the Lord."

"We also learned that just giving money won't help much because they don't know how to spend it," added Jake. That was illustrated to the Groenbergs by their interaction with a Haitian man who wanted to buy their pocket translator and yet could not afford a needed X-ray for his sick wife.

"In the future, they want to set up a sewing room and a woodworking shop so people can learn a trade," said Corrie. "I think that is very valuable."

Workers in Nicaragua also helped people to help themselves. This year's AMOR group continued work on an existing project, a farm that teaches local farmers effective and economical agricultural methods.

"While we were there," said Joy Te Brake, "we continued the building of a classroom, dug trenches for piping running water in the showers, picked coffee beans, and scooped goat poop. We also toured the National Palace and Cathedral of Managua, had a boat tour of Granada Islands on Lake Nicaragua, saw a volcano, experienced the

markets, and had lots of good food."

Both the work and the touring gave Te Brake the opportunity to observe the different levels and philosophies of living of the Nicaraguan people.

"They don't have very much, yet they seem so content," she explained. "The people there can teach us a lot about taking it one day at a time. They live day to day. We live in such a rushed world. Everything has to be done now and we get so caught up in things that we miss the important little things of life."

The overall sentiment of all three groups seemed to be that they came away with a lot more than they gave.

"I know the work we did was not in vain and that the people knew that we were there to let God's light shine through us, but they were also sharing God's light with us," said De Vries. "Our eyes were opened to another part of God's world."

“

This trip really challenged me to think about what we mean by "the church"...

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SERVICE AND LEARNING TRIP (S.A.L.T)



Join Dordt College faculty and staff as "servant learners" at Rehoboth Christian School August 7-13, 1999

SALT classes taught by Rehoboth Christian School staff

— Don Tamminga, Elmer Yazzie, and Mike De Young

- Peoples and Cultures of the Southwest, includes a trip to Zuni
- Navajo Art Expressed: A Christian Perspective, includes a visit to a Navajo rug weaver
- Navajoland Geology, includes a trip to El Malpais

Other events:

- Worship at reservation churches • Participate in local work projects
- Hike Red Rock State Park
- Observe festivities at 78th Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial
- Shop at annual Indian Craft and Art Market held at Rehoboth

Cost: \$350/person (does not include travel to Rehoboth). Adults only.

For information, call 1-800-343-6738 or e-mail ddewit@dordt.edu



Plumblines

The basis of our bounty

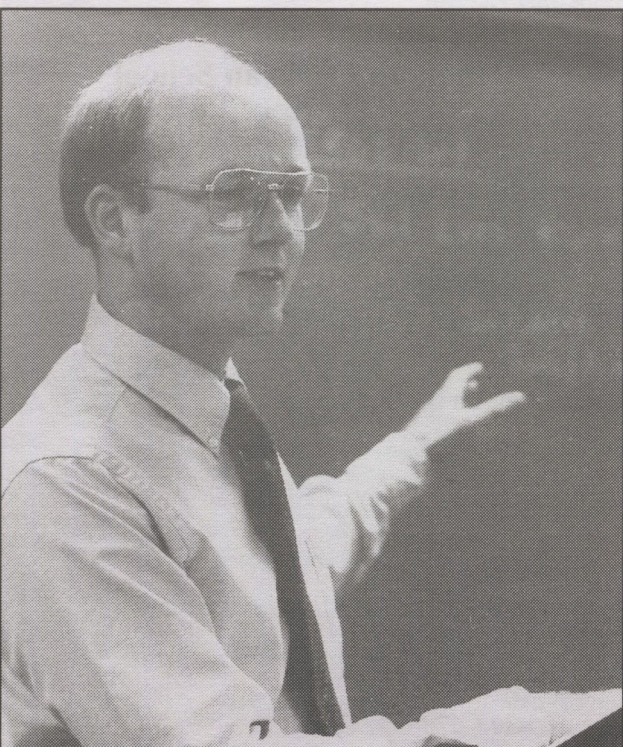
Chris Goedhart

Plumblines are commentaries broadcast on Dordt's radio station, KDCR. We hope to stimulate thinking about issues we face as Christians living in 1999.

“

The Lord's bounty encompasses our relationships with others and our relationship with the land.

”



Dr. Chris Goedhart teaches agriculture at Dordt.

One word that seems to be rarely used today, except in the context of agriculture, is the word *bounty*.

Most people have only a vague idea of the meaning of bounty. According to the dictionary, the most common definition of bounty is a premium or reward offered by a government. For example, I'm told that in the past Sioux County offered a nickel bounty for gopher paws. We are probably all familiar with bounty hunters. The second definition in the dictionary defines *bounty* as a generous gift. Neither of these definitions give a sense of bounty that is connected with the land and its ability to supply human needs.

Small wonder, in a country with more than ninety-seven percent of its citizens living off the farm, that other words have sprung up which seem more relevant to our society. In a business-dominated society, words such as *prosperity*, *money*, *wealth*, and *riches* abound; but all convey a different meaning than that expressed by *bounty*.

So imagine my surprise two years ago when, in response to a request for information about a new herbicide, I received a small promotional gift in the mail from the manufacturer. As I opened a carefully packed box, I pulled out a coffee mug and read: "The Basis for Your Bounty." After turning the cup in my hands, I read the other side: "Dupont Basis Herbicide."

I was immediately troubled by what some slick marketing-type must have considered a catchy sales slogan. In my eyes, this slogan was far worse than that typically used to market pesticides. Maybe you think that this ad is just

a progression in an unbroken chain of boasts and advertisements in the "war against weeds." Such ads feature weed-pulling dogs named Buck or squadrons of angry hornets in flight formations busily strafing cowering weeds. Magazine ads might threaten, "We're going to kick some serious grass."

So, why am I so upset by this harmless coffee mug? Well, because it fits in so well with what else is being thought or thoughtlessly said by Americans today. Consider an editorial by Mortimer Zuckerman, editor-in-chief of *U.S. News and World Report*. In the June 8, 1998, edition, Zuckerman's editorial was headlined, "Creators of our prosperity." He states that, "agile entrepreneurs, who put up money and devise financing schemes, created our marvelous prosperity." This prosperity is measured by impressive growth, low inflation and unemployment, and unprecedented wealth creation—over \$10 trillion in the New York and Nasdaq markets."

Given all this hubris, you may want to consider that the Bible makes a much different claim about the source and the conditions of our bounty. The Bible describes our bounty as a consequence of our fulfilling a covenantal relationship with our creator and the land. This covenant of bounty details not only how to worship God through sacrifices but also describes caring for the land and its people. We read of this bounty in several passages of scripture: Psalm 123, Psalm 128, Deuteronomy 11, Deuteronomy 28, and Leviticus 26. For instance, Deuteronomy 28 starts as follows:

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and

kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock, and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.

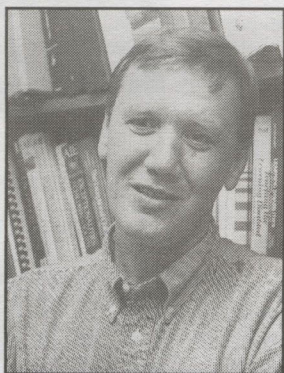
So you see, the Bible points not only to the conditions of our bounty, but describes an all-encompassing bounty and prosperity which goes far beyond the world's promises of plenty. The Lord's bounty encompasses our relationships with others and our relationship with the land. The Lord's bounty goes far beyond the dollars and cents speculated in the markets. It has to do with our reputation, the fulfillment we experience in work, the fruitfulness of the land and its creatures, both wild and domesticated. And finally it has to do with the peace or shalom we experience.

But do we really believe what the Bible promises and do we sense it with our every fiber? Or in a world with weather radar, global information systems, fertilizers, pesticides, genetic engineers, and agile entrepreneurs, do we put our faith in the abilities of man and forget what the Lord requires of us?

My prayer is that each of us this week will walk faithfully and humbly before our Lord and partake of a far greater bounty.

Faculty News

Ron Rynders, director of career development, and **Dr. John Kok**, dean of the humanities, together coordinate Dordt's Freshman Orientation Program. This February they presented two papers: "Engaging in the Calling and Task of Student" at a conference titled "Rites of Passage: Students Learning from and in Transition" in Bloomington, Minnesota, and sponsored by The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning (of which Dordt is a member); and "From Ten Weeks to Four Days Plus: Dordt's Freshman Orientation Program" at the 18th annual "First-Year Experience" conference in Columbia, South Carolina, sponsored by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. Kok and Rynders returned to campus with new ideas for continuing to improve Dordt's orientation program.



Rick Eigenbrood

Dr. Rick Eigenbrood was recently appointed the new director for Dordt's graduate program in education. As the new director, Eigenbrood's duties are shifted so that half of his appointment involves administering and teaching

in Dordt's Master of Education Program and half of his time is spent teaching in the education department.

Dr. Arnold Sikkema of Dordt's physics department will be speaking at a conference titled, "Theology and the New Physics" hosted by John Polkinghorne. The conference is part of the Calvin College Faculty Summer Seminars in Christian Scholarship, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, and will be held April 15-17. Sikkema's presentation is titled "Let There Be...: A Kenotic Approach to the Laws of Physics." Information on the conference can be found at www.calvin.edu/fss/spring.htm.

Dr. Sherri Lantinga of Dordt's psychology department gave a presentation titled "Making Real: How to Organize a Mini-Conference for Experimental Psychology Students" at the Sixth Midwest Institute for Teachers of Psychology on February 26.



Sherri Lantinga

As chairman of the board of IAPCHE (International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education) and its executive committee, **Dr. John Vander Stelt** spoke at the first regional conference of IAPCHE held in San Jose, Costa Rica, January 17-23, 1999. The conference was attended by 120 persons from seventeen different Latin American countries. The theme of the conference was "Christian Higher Education in the 21st Century in Latin America."

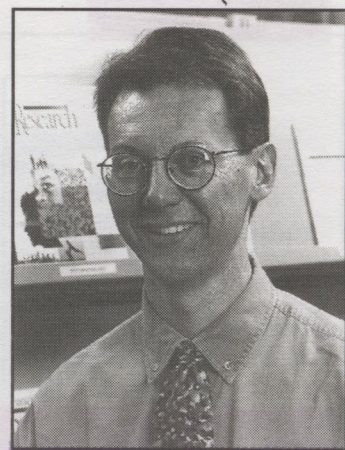
Dr. John H. Kok, dean of the humanities, traveled to Nigeria in early January at the invitation of the proposed Hilltop University in Gboko and the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE). His contribution to their week-long conference on "Christian Worldview and

Scholarship" included presenting his paper "Learning to Teach Within a Christian Perspective" as well as reading President-emeritus **Dr. John B. Hulst's** paper (who was hindered from attending at the last minute) "Christian Worldview and Christian Scholarship." While there he visited with Dordt alumnus **Simon Toryem's** widow, Comfort, and toured the R.C.T.N. seminary where **Dr. John Zinkand** taught for many years after leaving Dordt College in the 80s.

Dave Netz, vice president for information services, led a discussion for the District VI Christian Schools International Administrators on January 15 dealing with the future of technology in our schools.

Jim Vanderwoerd of the social work department was recently accepted into the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Leadership Fellows Program for doctoral work. Mandel is one of the top-ranked schools in social work in the country and offers the Leadership Fellows Awards to only five people each year. In addition to a tuition waiver and a generous stipend, Vanderwoerd will be matched with a mentor in his field but outside of the institution for regular consultation. The program is dedicated to training leaders in social welfare policy.

History professor **Dr. Paul Otto** presented "Going Native: White Indians Take Hollywood Films Captive" at the Popular Culture Association National Conference.



Jim Vanderwoerd

Van Donselaar is new director of computer services

Brian Van Donselaar is the new director of computer services at Dordt College. A 1991 graduate, he is committed to having Dordt's computer technology serve its educational needs first of all.

Over the years Dordt has developed its own computer system, writing customized programs for each of its administrative offices rather than purchasing commercial software packages to do the job. Van Donselaar helped write some of these as a student and as an employee the first year following graduation. He still believes it is a good and workable solution.

"Dordt's system may sometimes require a little more time to maintain, but it allows us to do some pretty cool things," he says.

Van Donselaar worked for a small network consulting company for the last six years. The experience he gained setting up, upgrading, and maintaining network systems has given him a good idea of what works well and what doesn't. It's also given him a business perspective to mesh with the academic needs he now faces.

"In the computer field we're very goal-oriented," he says. Systems are set up to achieve specific purposes. "At Dordt we have to ask how this will help educate students." He believes that computer services staff need to

keep educating themselves about what technology is available and how it can best serve the learning process.

Van Donselaar is keenly aware that technology will never replace personal classroom interaction, but he also sees the value of the Internet, video conferencing, and distance learning for institutions such as Dordt.

"These options can give small groups of students interested in a particular area an opportunity to take a course they could not otherwise get in institutions our size," he says. And on the other side, such technology gives Dordt the opportunity to make available to others what is most unique about its program.

Van Donselaar says he is grateful that he is able to work with an excellent, dedicated staff, that Dordt is on the leading edge of technology in its classrooms, that there is a good student-to-computer ratio, and that staff and workstudy personnel have an excellent working relationship. He has some specific goals for the months ahead. He plans to look for a more reliable e-mail system. He hopes to better integrate the college MacIntoshes with the campus network. And he plans to find a way to give individual offices easier access to data to free up computer services programmers for bigger projects.

"I'm excited about being back," he says.



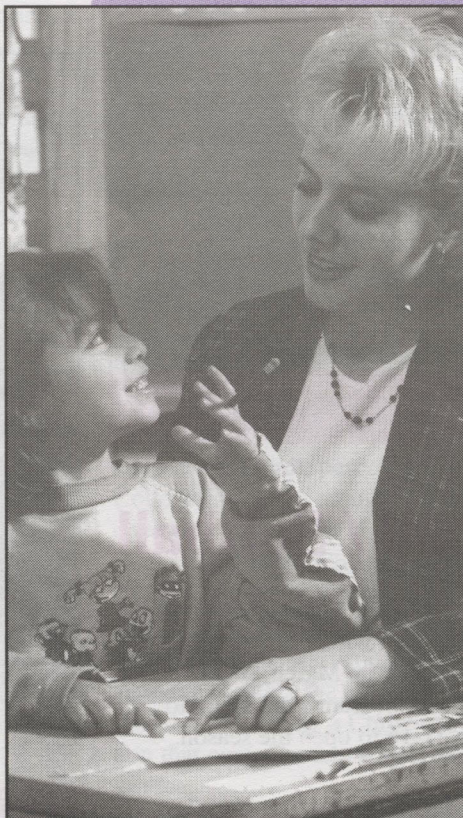
Brian Van Donselaar

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July at Dordt, 1999

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- Implementing Instructional Strategies

Week Three

- Current Issues in Education
- Inclusion of Students with Special Needs

Courses can be taken—not for graduate credit—at reduced rates as staff development for state license/certification renewal.

Sports updates

Corey Westra,
Sports Information Director

Sports on the Web

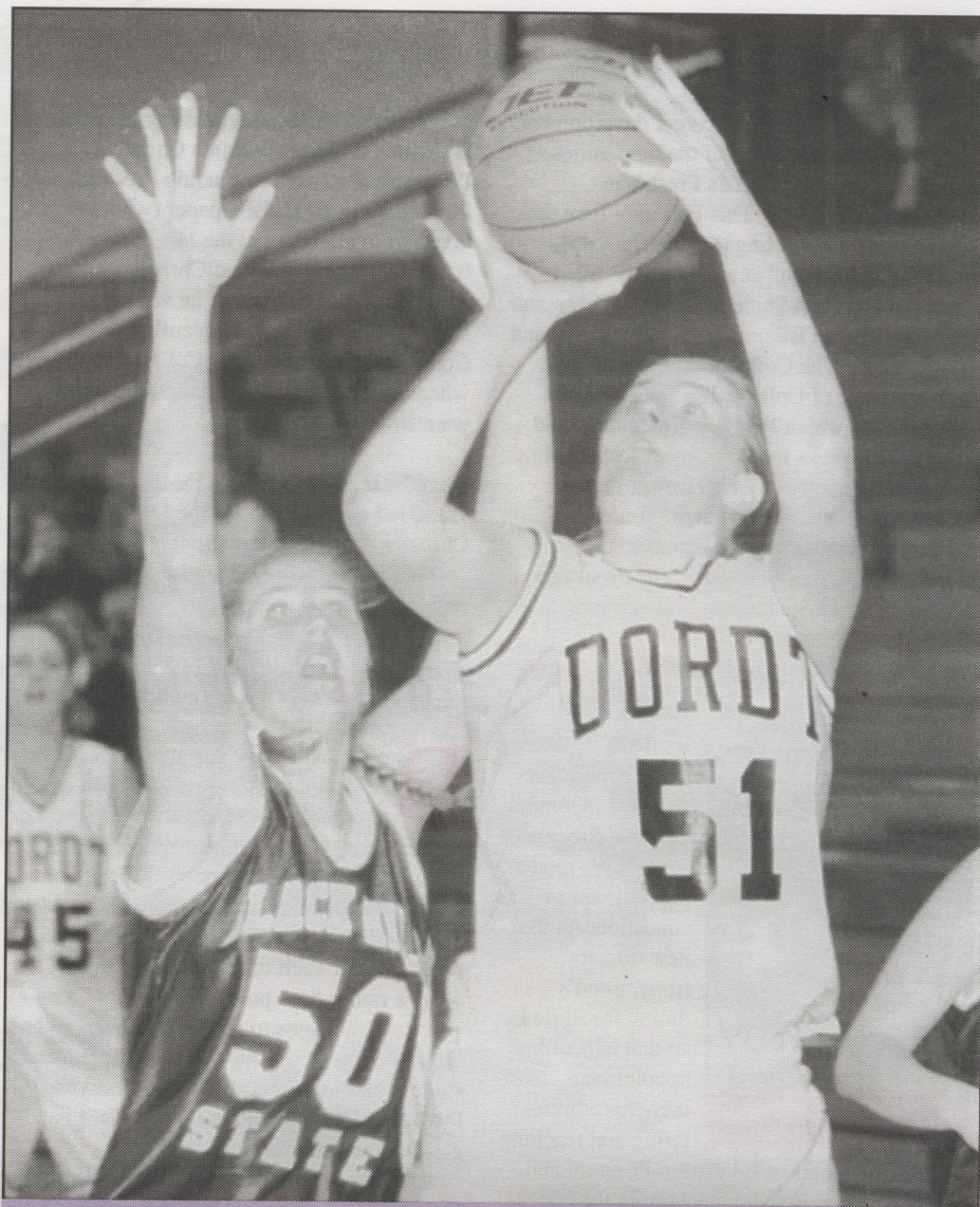
Don't forget to keep up to date with Dordt College sports on the Internet at www.kdcr.dordt.edu.

Women's Basketball

The Dordt women's basketball team capped the '98-'99 season by winning their last three SDIC games and qualifying for the post-season tournament. The Lady Defenders lost in the conference semi-finals 90-71 at seventh-ranked South Dakota Tech on the 28th of February. The women ended with a 16-10 record overall, and an 8-6 SDIC record this season. The Lady Defenders lose one senior from this year's team as Lisa Roos completed a stand-out career in a Lady Defender uniform. Roos, from Ripon, California, is now the school leader in career points (1,414) and rebounds (918). The women's basketball team is coached by Dr. Len Rhoda, who completed his eighteenth year at the controls.

Men's Basketball

A tough conference schedule took its toll on the Dordt men's basketball team as they ended the season with an 8-18 record and were 4-10 in the SDIC. The Defenders lost seven straight to end the season and did not make the play-offs for the first time in five years. The Dordt men lose four seniors from this year's team as Wiebe Vander Hoek (Sumner, Washington), Mike Elenbaas (Seattle, Washington), Mike Fisher (Randolph, Wisconsin), and Mike Fransman (Luverne, Minnesota), finished four years of basketball for the Defenders. Greg Van Soelen completed his fourth year at the helm of the men's program.



Lisa Roos goes for two. The senior from Ripon, California, was the SDIC player of the year.

Indoor Track

The indoor track season came to an end with the NAIA National Indoor Meet at Lincoln, Nebraska, on February 26 and 27. Jill Starkenburg, a freshman from Palmyra, New York, was named All-American in the pole vault with a sixth place finish. Starkenburg cleared 10'6" to earn All-American status. The men's 4x800 and 4x400 relay teams finished twelfth at the national meet and both set school records in the process. The 4x400 team of Jeff Summerhays (junior from Brantford, Ontario), Jon

Dekkers (freshman from Hawarden, Iowa), Jim Dekkers (freshman from Hawarden, Iowa), and Ron Kingma (sophomore from De Motte, Indiana), ran a time of 3:22.61 and the 4x800 of Steve Holwerda (senior from Lansing, Illinois), Jon Dekkers (freshman from Hawarden, Iowa), Ron Kingma (sophomore from De Motte, Indiana), and Troy Ten Napel (junior from Sioux Center, Iowa), had a time of 7:54.52.

The women's 4x800 team of Lisa Cannegieter (sophomore from Dike, Iowa),

Tabitha Vander Wilt (sophomore from Hospers, Iowa), Angie Nibbelink (freshman from Sioux Center, Iowa), and Cathy Palmer (senior from Long Pine, Nebraska), finished thirteenth with a time of 9:49.41. Erica Ton, a freshman from Dunville, Ontario, was eleventh in the triple jump with a leap of 36'8 1/2", and was twenty-first in the long jump with a jump of 16'7 1/4". The outdoor track season began on Saturday, March 27, at the Briar Cliff Invitational in Sioux City, Iowa.



Dordt junior Neal Brenneman drives to the basket in the final game of the year versus Sioux Falls. Brenneman was a second-team SDIC selection.

Baseball / Softball

The Dordt College women's softball season opened with a Southern California trip on March 11-20.

The men's baseball team went south to Kansas March 11-16 to open the season.



Dordt's indoor track national qualifiers in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Campaign update

Lyle Gritters
Vice president for college advancement

The Matching Gifts Fund Program Completed

The Dordt 2000 Matching Gifts Challenge Program ended in December, having used the entire \$900,000 in the Matching Gifts Fund. The Matching Gifts Fund was established in 1996 by a group of friends of the college to provide a challenge for new and increased gifts and pledges to the Dordt 2000 Campaign.

Two new scholarships funded

Dordt College students will benefit from two new scholarships funded by friends of the college. Alumni Dennis Hop ('77) and Jean Hop-Madden ('84) established a scholarship to honor the commitment of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Hop, Jr., and their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hop, Sr., to Christian education. This scholarship is being funded through a life insurance policy on the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Hop, Jr.

A second scholarship, named the Glenn Andreas Scholarship, was established by a family member in memory of Mr. Glenn Andreas. This endowed scholarship will award scholarships of \$1000 to \$2000 per year to students with superior academic abilities.



Scholarships keep Dordt affordable

Dave Vander Werf
Director of planned giving

Not long ago a bequest from a donor's estate came across my desk. This lifetime gift was designated to fund a scholarship for international students at Dordt College. We have been blessed to receive several gifts designated for scholarships this year.

Scholarship gifts are a vital way for Dordt College to keep tuition affordable for students. At Dordt College ninety-five percent of our students receive financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study jobs, and loans. Every year, many students benefit from the generosity of donors who funded scholarships, and many alumni can attest to the benefit of receiving these scholarships while attending Dordt College. But even though we have been able to offer more scholarships because of gifts like the one mentioned above, the need for additional scholarships grows as the college grows and as costs increase.

Donors of scholarships also see an immediate impact from their gift. In addition to receiving a tax benefit, donors are able to support an area of study of particular interest to them. Donors may wish to designate their gifts for the arts, science, or youth ministries,

or they may wish to assist students from a geographic region or a specific class. The options for designating scholarships are almost endless.

Scholarships can be funded in either of two ways: funded annually or endowed. For an annually funded scholarship a donor commits to an annual gift of a specific amount which the college awards to a qualifying student. An endowed scholarship requires a gift of \$10,000 or more which the college invests. A scholarship is then awarded annually based on the earnings of the endowment fund. A portion of the annual yield is retained to allow the scholarship to grow and protect it against inflation. The endowed scholarship is a better option than the annually funded since it ensures long-term support of designated programs. In either case the donor, with the help of the scholarships committee, may name the scholarship and establish the criteria for awarding it.

To establish a scholarship, contact the advancement office at 712-722-6020 and share your interests. We'll talk with you and formulate your ideas into a scholarship proposal for you to review. Please consider establishing a scholarship. You can make a difference in the life of a Dordt College student.

Campaign Figures (as of December 1, 1998)

Campaign component	Goal	Pledged or received	Percentage of goal reached
Capital projects and annual fund (cash or pledges)	\$14,000,000	\$14,046,000	100%
General endowment (deferred, matured, and cash gifts)	\$2,000,000	\$3,132,000	157%
TOTAL	\$16,000,000	\$17,178,000	107%

Dordt College Fund drive nears completion

The Dordt College Fund drive is nearing completion. As of March 1, a total of \$575,000 has been received in gifts and one-year pledges, compared to \$494,000 received as of the same date last year. Our goal for this year's drive is \$500,000.

Leadership gifts from about 200 constituents have raised \$203,000 for the drive. Church offerings and direct mail gifts have brought in another \$45,000.

This fall's phonathon for the Dordt College Fund was completed on Thursday, December 10. Our goal was \$325,000 and, as of December 10, over \$327,000 was pledged.

Church support remains crucial

Judy Hagey
Director of church relations

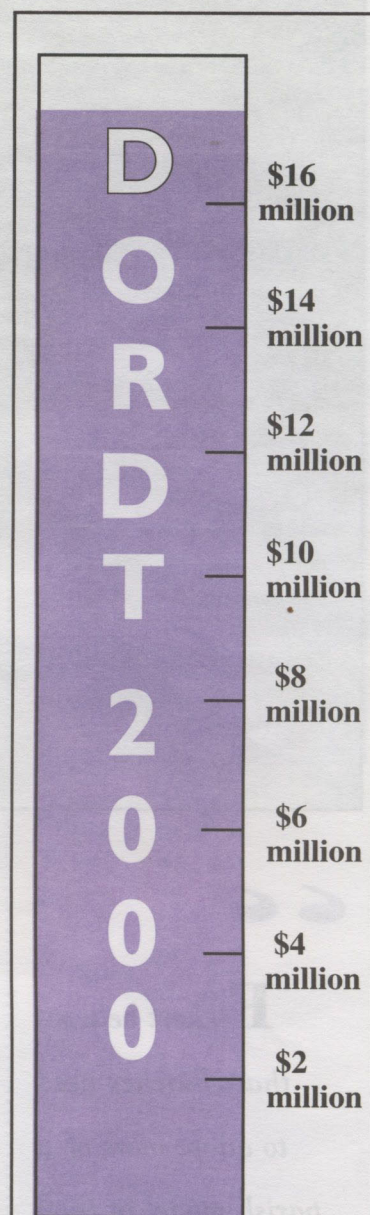
Among Christian colleges Dordt College has a unique relationship with the instituted church. In *The Soul of the American University*, George Marsden chronicles a long list of American colleges and universities that were established by various denominations with a mission of providing Christian education. For a variety of reasons those institutions strayed from their original missions and no longer confess nor embrace any affiliation with their founding churches.

While Dordt is not owned by the Christian Reformed Church, it enjoys a close relationship with the denomination. It owes its existence to members of the Christian Reformed Church who saw a need for a Christian college in the Midwest and worked tirelessly for its establishment. The churches represented by those individuals continue to be a significant source of support for the college.

That Dordt continues to enjoy the relationship it does with its supporting churches is a testimony not only to the churches, but also to the college. As Marsden points out in his book, when an institution wanders from its founding principles, it jeopardizes its relationship with its founders. To be sure, Dordt looks much different today than it did forty years ago, but its soul—its reason to be—is not different.

Churches and individuals who support what Dordt stands for continue to be vital to our existence. Central to our program of church support is the ministry shares program of the Christian Reformed Church. Churches that participate in this shared ministry are partners with us in providing Christian education to their covenant youth. If you're a member of such a church, be assured of our gratitude for your gifts and prayers.

We are also grateful for those churches or denominations that budget a per-family amount for Dordt, participate in the Dordt College Fund (the annual fall drive for the operating budget), or the Spring Debt Reduction Drive. Church support, in the form of prayers and gifts, is an important part of the home-school-church triad that contributes to a well-rounded education. Working together we are able to continue our ministry of offering a Christ-centered education that equips young people for work and service.



Campaign goal:

\$16 million

Raised to date:

\$17.178 million

Dordt 2000 is a five-year, \$16 million campaign to provide additional campus facilities, meet the annual fund goals, and increase the endowment.

Churches and individuals who support what Dordt stands for continue to be vital to our existence.



1999 Distinguished Alum

Fikkert fights poverty

Sally Jongsma

Fighting poverty has been Dr. Brian Fikkert's ('86) passion since high school. Reading *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* in his senior year, he was struck by the number of biblical passages that call for compassion for the poor. He's been committed to helping alleviate poverty ever since.

Today, in addition to teaching economics at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, he is the director of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development. An outreach of Covenant College, the Center's goal is to help churches minister to the poor by training leaders in holistic assistance programs. Its aim is to bring spiritual transformation and economic development to the poor.

The son of an Orthodox Presbyterian minister and grandson of a Salvation Army captain, Fikkert says his life today seems almost a natural outworking of his heritage.

"In a way I'm taking that Salvation Army legacy and recasting it in a Reformed context," he says. He wants to help churches recapture the breadth of the gospel.

Fikkert is only just getting the Center operating. To do so in addition to his teaching he is working nearly the equivalent of two full-time jobs. But his work brings together two strands of his life that he felt were diverging.

Following graduation from Dordt, Fikkert pursued graduate work at Yale University, earning a Ph.D. with distinction in 1994. In the process he traveled around the world to do research. He saw many hungry and poor people. He then accepted a teaching position at the University of Maryland, a highly ranked university in the field of economics.

"I thought I was able to get a foothold for the kingdom in a large secular university through that position," he says. "But while I felt called, I didn't feel content." The constraints of the job and the discipline as it is defined there shackled his Christianity, he says, because in modern economics humans are too often reduced to mathematical equations and models. "There are so many spiritual, social, and justice issues involved in dealing with poverty that aren't addressed [in that setting]," he adds. "The part of me as an economist that was unique couldn't be accommodated."

At the same time, as an elder in his church, Fikkert felt his love for the church growing. But in some ways this added to his frustration. In his job the focus was on mathematical economics, with no acknowledgment of a spiritual component to life; in his church life the focus was on the spiritual with little emphasis on alleviating poverty.

Looking for a solution, he entered into conversation with Covenant College where he knew a number of people were working in or interested in holistic ministry to the poor.

"The Lord led me to go now even though I didn't plan to move for maybe ten years," he says. A year after his move, with the help of outside funding, the Chalmers Center for Economic Development is becoming a reality.

Thomas Chalmers was a nineteenth century pastor of the Reformed Church in Scotland who was instrumental in reviving a holistic ministry to the poor in his denomination. Fikkert says that Chalmers was said to be so successful in his efforts that he was criticized by some for putting the government's less effective welfare programs out of business. Through Covenant's Center he hopes to revive Chalmers' tradition and help churches develop programs that will let people support themselves and at the same time learn more about the Gospel from people they get to know through these churches.

Fikkert has found people and a local congregation already actively involved in ministering to the poor in Chattanooga, next door to Covenant College. With a network of people, a "lab" in his local congregation, and the funding to hire a group of people to begin a training program, Fikkert is on the way to accomplishing his goal.

"Even though Chattanooga has had an urban renaissance in the last years, pockets of the city still have poverty rates of over eighty percent," he says. He believes that microenterprise development programs—especially in international settings—and regional computerized economic models in domestic settings may provide a place to start if not provide a more permanent answer.

Microenterprise development models are already used by relief organizations such as the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and the Mennonite Central Committee. A local

organization such as a church provides capital for loans so that people can begin their own small businesses to support themselves and their families. The Center will train undergraduate students in the latest tools of such church-based economic development so that they can work in these churches.

Fikkert says that there is evidence that microenterprise models work best in communities with a strong ethnic base so that members have a sense of group accountability.

"If one family's loan depends on funds from the next person beginning to pay his off, there is a stronger sense of commitment both because they want to pay the money back and because they want to get their turn at a loan," he says.

To address domestic poverty, the Center plans to use state-of-the-art, computerized regional economic models to determine what kinds of businesses would be most likely to increase employment opportunities for low-income people in a given area. That information would be used to attract businesses that could provide jobs for local people. The model could also identify occupations that are growing in a particular area and help shape job training programs.

"We are at a particularly crucial point in the fight to alleviate poverty because there is a growing awareness that we need both the church and government to make an impact," Fikkert says, citing Charitable Choice rulings that have been put into effect recently. "The government is seeing that the issues are complex. But churches aren't prepared."

Fikkert believes that churches need to adopt more of a parish model in their outreach and life. They need to give the message that they care about the people of their neighborhood. He cites some amazing examples of growth and outreach in small urban neighborhoods in a city like Baltimore, Maryland.

"Too often the only image people have of the church is one of angry faces picketing abortion or angry protests against homosexuality," he says. "We need to show that Christians are compassionate people."

Fikkert encourages churches to start with what they are good at—after school tutoring, linking with Habitat for Humanity, providing space and services for family counselors. As these programs develop, they may be able to offer small-business training for people of the neighborhood to set up their own businesses. He also believes that community people should quickly be linked with the church families for discipling and care, helping with transportation and child care, but also getting involved in their lives, and informally holding them to some measure of accountability.

Although these principles lie at the heart of the Chalmers Center, Fikkert admits that he is uncertain exactly how it will all work. At present he is compiling a staff of people. He and one other Covenant professor will teach business and economics courses from their Reformed perspective. He hopes to hire someone with a Ph.D. in microenterprise systems and has already hired a former CRWRC staff person with experience in microenterprise models. In addition the Center plans to hire an administrator and an assistant.

Fikkert hopes the Chalmers Center will offer opportunities to students beyond those at Covenant. Dordt students could possibly spend an off-campus semester working with a specific project and take courses at the same time. Distance learning could help the Center offer basic courses to students at a number of Council of Christian Colleges and Universities member schools.

The opportunities are abundant. The potential for helping people not only support themselves and their families, but also to come to know Christ is great. Fikkert covets your prayers and support as he continues to follow what God has called him to do.

“

Fikkert believes that churches need to adopt more of a parish model in their outreach and life.

”



Dr. Brian Fikkert spoke to the college community during Homecoming week.

The Distinguished Alumnus award is given annually by the college to a graduate who has exemplified the principles of the college in career or other areas of life, and who has gained insights and experiences that can be shared for the benefit of the college community. Fikkert is the ninth Dordt graduate to receive the award.

Frequently asked questions in the alumni office

The alumni office

fields a variety of questions from alumni. Some give us pause, like the alumnus who wanted help finding his former roommate, a very good friend, only he couldn't remember the name—John Vander something. (Yes, we did find the "lost" roomie.) Most questions are more routine. Here are some of the more frequently asked questions and our answers.



Judy Hagey

Can I get my friend's address?

Sure! We're here to help you stay connected with the college and each other. Our policy is to provide address information to alumni and college employees for legitimate reasons, unless you've specifically requested we not release that information. The most common requests we get are for addresses for wedding invitations and Christmas cards. When we get requests from folks who don't have such a direct connection to the college, our policy is to send you a postcard letting you know that someone is trying to get in touch with you and asking you to respond directly to them.

I've just moved to a new location.

Can you send me a list of all the Dordt alumni in the area?

As much as we understand your wanting to connect with fellow Dordt folks in a new area, we have to balance our role of keeping you connected with our responsibilities to maintain confidentiality. The Alumni Assistance Network is a group of alumni who have volunteered to help recent graduates and

not-so-recent grads learn the ropes of a new community. We can put you in touch with them.

Is my friend listed in the e-mail directory? How can I find out?

Since we put the alumni e-mail directory on-line last year, almost 1600 of you have submitted an e-mail address for the directory — and the number grows every week. To find out if your acquaintances are listed you'll have to query by first, last, or maiden name or class year. If you have trouble, check the search tips. Take note, if you're looking for all the folks in your class year, or any other "wild card" query, you'll only get the first ten listed. We've intentionally set the system up with a number of precautions to protect your privacy. If you're really stumped, e-mail us and we'll help you out.

I sent a change of address to someone at the college, but my mail still comes to the wrong address. What's happening?

Despite technology and our best efforts, at times the information flow breaks down. When your Dordt mail arrives with an old address please return that address to the alumni office along with a note about which mailing this was. We'll do our best to correct the problem.

If I want to get some Dordt friends together, will you help?

Absolutely! We can help you with addresses if you want to do something on your own. If you're interested in putting together an event

for all the alums in your area we'll take care of the mailing and help arrange a program, if you'd like. We're here to do whatever we can do to foster your relationship with the college and each other. We'd love to hear your suggestions for ways to make that happen.

When's my reunion?

So glad you asked! We've scheduled reunion weekend for the fourth weekend in July into the foreseeable future. This year's reunion, July 23-25, recognizes the 25th anniversary year of the class of 1974, the 10-year reunion for the class of 1989, and in keeping with the program started a few years ago, we're hosting a cluster reunion for the 30th anniversary for the class of 1969. The "cluster" is the classes from 1967-1971. Reunion weekend offers plenty of time for reminiscing and relaxing, recreational opportunities, plenty of food, and great children's programs—all at a reasonable price. Watch the mail for your class directory and registration information.

Reunion weekend 2000 (July 21-23) is slated as an all-college reunion. It's not too early to begin making plans to be on campus that weekend. And yes, we can help you connect with your lost roommates and friends so you can re-live your Dordt years together.

A picture is worth a thousand words...

And a Dordt T-shirt! We'd love to have your pictures from recent regional Dordt events or your own reunions with friends. Send them to the alumni office along with a brief description of the event and who was there. We'll run them in the Voice and send you a T-shirt from the bookstore.

Upcoming events

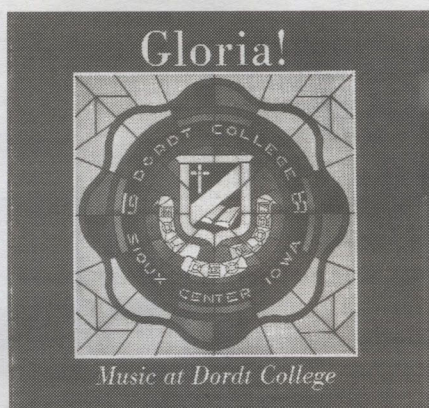
Alumni Orchestra European Tour
June 7-21, 1999

Sioux Center tour concert
7:30 p.m. June 5, 1999
B.J. Haan Auditorium

Minneapolis tour concert
7:00 p.m. June 6, 1999
Calvary CRC, Bloomington

Summer Reunion
July 23-24, 1999

Now available on CD



A selection of pieces performed in 1997-98 by Dordt musicians; includes choral and instrumental ensembles. Highlights of the 1997-98 performance season, including selections by the Concert Choir, Concert Band, Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, and award-winning student organist Bonnie Runia.

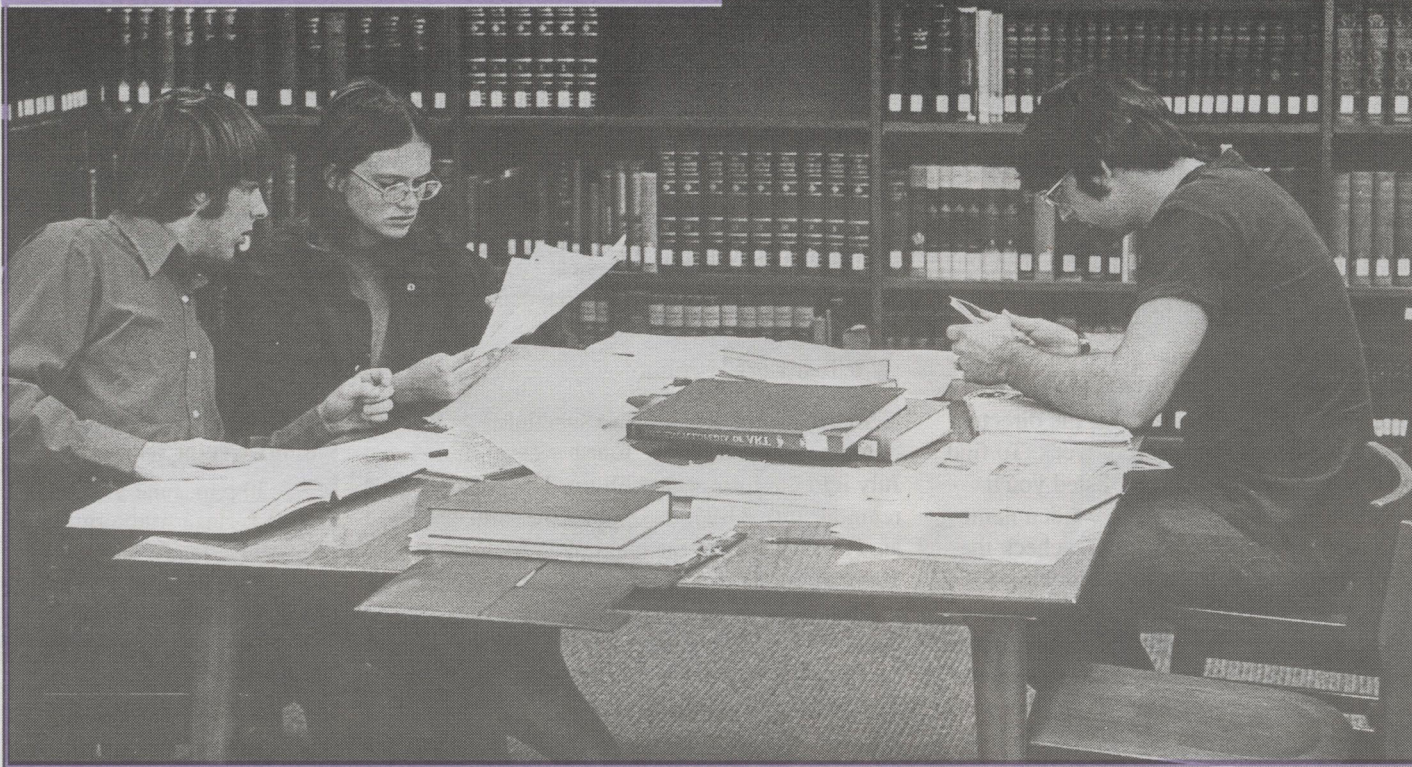
Dordt College Bookstore
498 4th Avenue N.E.
Sioux Center, Iowa 51250
712-722-6420



Homecoming 1999

Dordt students and alums enjoy the annual ice cream social, this year held after the Steve Bell concert on Saturday night. At lower left, Barbara Huisman Viss ('71) opens the concert on the piano.





Alumni notes

e-mail

Over 1600 alumni have sent us their e-mail addresses. We would like to receive still more, as we hope to use this tool to improve communication with and among alumni. If you want to contact us by e-mail, the address is alumni@dordt.edu. And check out the alumni e-mail directory, announcements and information available on the alumni pages of the Dordt website, www.dordt.edu.

summer camp for junior high kids

There are still some openings for Dordt Discovery Days, the popular junior high camp offered each year. Your children will join 200 others—many children of your fellow alums—on campus the week of June 28. For more information, contact ddewit@dordt.edu or call 712-722-6029.

Tim and Carol (Balt, '70) Vreeman are living in Moorhead, Minnesota. After 26 years in the army, Tim is retiring to accept a position as a pilot for Life Flight at Merit Care Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota.

Marian Van Til (ex '74) moved from associate editor to managing editor of *Christian Courier* (formerly Calvinist Contact) last fall. *Christian Courier* is published in St. Catharines, Ont., and has subscribers across the continent. Marian is also a member of a symphonic chorus, Chorus Niagara, which in early March participated in the making of a CD of favorite hymns arranged and conducted by imminent British composer/conductor John Rutter, and recorded at St. James Cathedral in Toronto. Marian is the music director at St. John's Episcopal Church, Youngstown, N.Y., and a member of Jubilee Fellowship CRC, St. Catharines. She and her husband, Ed Cassidy, live in Lewiston, N.Y.

After nearly 20 years of holding various positions with both the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony, **Brent Assink ('77)** has been appointed executive director of the San Francisco Symphony.

Assink graduated from Dordt with a degree in business administration and piano performance. He continued his education at the University of Minnesota, where he received his master's in business administration and, in 1980, took an internship with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO). In 1990, Assink, then manager of artistic operations for the SPCO, accepted a position as general manager of the San Francisco Symphony. Assink returned to the SPCO in 1994 to become president and managing director. During his last four years with the SPCO, Assink not only signed a number of beneficial staff members and encouraged two notable community education programs, but he essentially saved the organization from financial ruin by balancing the operating budget and eliminating a burdensome debt. In June, he plans to make the final transition to San Francisco where he will succeed Peter Pastreich as the executive director of what is now the fifth largest symphony orchestra in the United States.

Ron and Suzanne (Boer) Knol (ex'81, ex'82) are living in Edmonton, Alberta. After obtaining his law degree from the University of Alberta, working four years for a retail chain, and spending seven years as a partner in a small law firm, Ron has settled into the position of general manager for the Edmonton Drillers Soccer Club, which is part of the National Professional Soccer League. Suzanne is in her fifteenth year of teaching at Edmonton Christian High School and has her artwork on display in some of Edmonton's art galleries. Both Ron and Suzanne are involved in their church's music program and their school community.

Scott Vande Griend (ex'82) recently received a promotion to corporate sales veterinary business manager for Hill's Pet Nutrition, a manufacturer of

specialty and therapeutic pet foods. As a result of the promotion, he and his wife, Melanie, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, with their three children, Victoria (6), Micah (4), and Katherine (2).

Steve and Lynn (Ruis) Broersma ('83, '85) are living in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Steve works for St. Mary's Hospital in the industrial rehabilitation program. Lynn is a full-time mom and a part-time Creative Memories consultant.

John and Linda (Bosma) Velkamp ('84, '81) live in Castle Rock, Washington, with their two children, Tyler (11) and Shayna (6). John is in his second year of teaching instrumental music at Castle Rock Schools, and Linda is a homemaker and operator of a home-based computer business.

Lynn Postma ('84) teaches K-8 physical education classes and is middle school athletic director at Ada Christian School. Her husband, Ron Jelsema, works for the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

John and Susan Vanden Hoek ('85) and their three children, Kayla, Derek, and Jody, have recently moved to Orange City, Iowa. John is the director of regulatory compliance and quality control at Van Beek Scientific, a livestock health products manufacturer. Susan is a homemaker and a nurse.

Troy Hugen ('87) was promoted in December to the position of general manager at American Wood Fibers in Pella, Iowa. He oversees production, transportation, and financial concerns for his region. He also spends time dealing with customer and supplier issues. Troy lives in Pella with his wife, Brenda, and their son, Trey.

Paul and Sue (Powell) Van Stelle ('87, '88) live in Rock Valley, Iowa, with their three-year-old daughter, Danae. Paul graduated from North American Baptist Seminary (Sioux Falls) in December with an M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy. He currently works as a ministry coordinator at Trinity CRC in Rock Valley and in psychiatric rehabilitation at Hope Haven. Sue works part-time at Hull Western Christian High School for their Teen Advisor program.

Dave and Peggy (Marcus) Boxum ('87, '88) live in Sioux City, Iowa, with their two daughters, Autumn (2), and Anna (four months). Dave works in the corporate communications department at Gateway, a global, direct-marketing computer business based in South Dakota. Peggy teaches English as a Second Language part-time at the elementary level in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

Janelle (Cok, '89) Gustafson lives near Belgrade, Montana, with her husband, Eric, and 10 year-old son, David. Since 1992, Janelle has worked in the estimating/marketing department of Barnard Construction, a large civil contractor. Eric is currently completing his master's degree in school administration.

Raymond and Susan (Wielinga) Middel ('88, '89) live in Lombard, Illinois, where Ray is a national sales manager for Westfallia Dairy Systems. The Middels have four children: Nathan (7), Colin (5), Brittany (3), and Megan (four-and-a-half months).

Andy Wierenga ('89) lives in Jacksonville, Florida, with his wife, Christy, and their two children, Kimberly and Drew, where they attend Mandarin Presbyterian Church. Andy recently accepted a full-time business analyst position with Convergys Corporation in Jacksonville, after working there as an IT consultant. He has also successfully completed the Project Management Institute's professional certification exam. Christy works as a legal secretary with Citigroup Universal Card Services.

In addition to working at Kaiser Permanente, **Dave Witt ('89)** is a representative for Excel. He is currently seeking contacts for Excel's international expansion into Canada. Dave lives with his family in Galt, California. His wife, Armitta, is a full-time mom and homemaker.

Sheila (Molendyk, '91) De Groot is the financial assistant for a counseling center and battered women's shelter in Waterloo, Iowa. She lives with her family in Reinbeck, Iowa, where her husband is a teacher and coach at Gladbrook-Reinbeck High School.

Allen and Crysta (Bonestroo) Brummel ('91, '92) moved to South Holland, Illinois, last July where Allen is now pastoring the Protestant Reformed Church.

Dave and Cindy (Hoekstra) Gritters ('92, '92) have recently assumed the responsibilities of new owners and managers of Gritters Electric, Inc. They have two children: Calise (2) and Cody (four months).

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPING

We at Dordt College are interested in hearing how you are doing and what kinds of events are happening in your life. Please fill out the coupon below and mail to: Alumni Association, Dordt College, 498 4th Ave. NE, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

- ☐ Marriage ☐ Future Defenders ☐ Address Change
☐ In Memoriam ☐ Alumni News

Name _____

Year _____ Address _____

News Items/Suggestion(s) _____

Arnold and Teresa Rumph ('92) live in Drayton, Ontario, where they own and operate a small beef farm. In addition to farming, Arnold works in sales and technical services for the poultry division at Maple Leaf Foods, Inc., and Teresa works as a receptionist for a manufacturing company.

In September 1998, Deputy **Grant Breems** ('93) of the Hennepin (Minnesota) County Sheriff's Office became the first deputy sheriff in the nation to become a canine handler trained by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms. Grant and canine partner, Bette, are trained in explosive detection. Grant has been with the department for four-and-a-half years and is also on the department SWAT team.

Theresa (Freese, '93) Stiner recently accepted a position as a program planner with the Waste Management Assistance Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Matthew and Beverly (Doppenberg) Beimers ('94, '94) moved from Montana to Langley, British Columbia, last summer where Matthew is teaching humanities classes to eighth grade students at Langley Christian School. Bev is a full-time homemaker and mom to their five-month-old daughter, Anneke.

Brian and **Sharlene (Jansen, ex '94)** Boessenkool live in Surrey, British Columbia. Brian works for Burnaby Lake Greenhouses as a long-haul driver, and Sharlene stays home with their two daughters, Jessica (5) and Kaitlyn (3).

Daniel and Mary Lee Sonke ('94) live in Ft. Myers, Florida, where Dan is a tropical agriculture information specialist for the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO). ECHO is a Christian organization that offers information and seed resources to 3000 missionaries in 140 nations.

Rodney and Kerry (Bolkema) Lamfers ('95, '95) live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Rodney is a CPA at J. Noonan and Company. He also manages Computerized Management Systems, which develops accounting software for the trucking industry. Kerry is a full-time mom and homemaker.

Cindy (Fox, ex '96) Neis works part-time at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as a staff accountant. Her husband, Todd, also works in Cedar Rapids as a test technician at Rockwell International. Cindy and Todd live in Fairfax, Iowa, with their five-month-old twins, Alyssa Joy and Trevor Austin.

For the fourth time since graduation, **Heather Hamilton** ('97) is moving, this time to Mount Vernon, New York. On January 4, Heather began working as associate director for the Children's Scholarship Fund in New York City. Through local programs in 40 cities, CSF distributes private school tuition scholarships to children from low-income families. Previously, Heather worked as program director for the Washington Scholarship Fund, after which CSF is modeled.

Cindy Vande Voort ('97) received her master's degree in Adult Fitness/Cardiac Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She is currently working in the cardiac rehabilitation department at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota.

Marriages

Kent McNeil and **Dawn Kooistra** ('80), 7/25/99

Ron Jelsema and **Lynn Postma** ('84), 3/6/99

Steve De Groot ('88) and Amy Veldhuizen, 9/18/98

Eric Gustafson and **Janelle Cok** ('89), 6/26/98

Ron Buit and **Bonnie Bandstra** ('91), 10/3/98

Stuart Bokhoven ('91) and Amy Van Soelen, 11/7/98

Lawrence Stiner and **Theresa Freese** ('93), 1/2/99

Philip Nelson and **Wendy Proper** ('94, '94), 7/18/98

Michael Ash and **Shelley Ruis** ('94), 10/25/97

Daniel Sonke ('94) and Mary Lee Lykins, 11/21/98

Vernon Blohm and **Davinia Lyon** (ex '95), 6/13/98

D.J. De Jong and **Diane Schinkel** ('95, '96), 6/6/98

Chad Nelson and **Tamra Rouw** ('97, '97), 1/2/99

Heath Oberloh and **Amy Feikema** ('97, '98), 8/8/98

Henry Eric De Haan and **Cara De Wit** ('97, ex '99), 7/24/98

Future Defenders

Chris and Rebecca (Bierlink) Teeuwssen ('80, '86), Abrielle Rebecca, 11/6/98

Tim and **Kathy (Hoogerhyde '82))** Kline, Alyssa Marie, 2/25/99

David and **Yvonne (Mennega, '82)** Thornton, Caleb Gregory, 12/22/98

Doug and Carla (Westra) Roghair ('83, ex '81), Jenna Joy, 1/3/99

Steve and Lynn (Ruis) Boersma ('83, '85), Benjamin Glen, 5/11/98

Steven and **Kandace Anema** ('84), Kyle James, 8/20/98

Melvin and **Peggy (Gifford, ex '84)** Nieuwenhuis, Claudia Brooks, 4/3/98

Kurt and **Gail Kuipers** ('84), Lukas Wei-Jen, 9/4/98

Randy and **Barb (Ward, '84)** Postma, Joel Randall, 11/19/98

James and **Dianne (Beekman, ex '85)** De Penning, Samuel Isaac, 9/10/98

Rob and **Betty (De Jager, '85)** Boomsma, Darren Anthony, 7/23/98

Randal and Julie (Ten Haken) Klynsma ('85, '85), Magdalyn Lou, 5/10/98

Don and **Pam (Daale, ex '86)** Peitzman, Logan James, 12/30/98

Todd and **Elizabeth (Voss, '86)** Pruisner, Luke Samuel, 10/26/98

Henry and **Rennie Westerveld** ('86), Bradley William, 12/13/98

Grant and Lisa (Anema) Vande Kamp ('86, '88), Lee Michael, 7/18/98

Ed and **Sharon (Bosker, ex '87)** Versluys, Joel Edwin, 9/10/98

Scott and Denise (Van Hal) Kimm (ex '87, '87), Rose Marie, born 9/27/98, adopted 9/30/98

Curtis and **Valerie (Pruim, '87)** Claerbaut, Ethan Spencer, born 12/7/98, adopted 1/20/99

Dave and Peggy (Marcus) Boxum ('87, '88), Anna Lynn, 11/28/98

Jeff and Sharon (Byker) Dahm ('87, ex '90), Samuel Joseph, 1/16/99

Ed and Debbie (Gietema) Groot ('87, '90), Hannah Helene, 10/6/98

Michael and **Jannette (Bakker, '88)** Hickey, Adam Nicholas, 12/19/98

Chris and **Terri (Breems, '88)** Kelderman, Mollie Rae, 12/8/98

Henry and **Willie (Buist, '88)** De Klerk, Thomas Anton, 11/8/98

Rick and **Dianna (Springer, '89)** Ashbaugh, Macala Lacey, 1/1/99

Chad and **Marla Brands** ('89), Mackenzie Kiersten, 1/5/99

Simon and **Deb de Jong** ('89), Joshua Michael, 10/7/98

Raymond and Susan (Wielinga) Middel ('89, '89), Megan Kaitlyn, 11/8/98

Stewart and Marsha (Kuipers) Vyn (ex '89, '89), Michelle Kristie, 6/22/98

Dean and **Lisa (Westerveld, '89)** Kuiper, Angela Marie, 8/14/98

Dave and **Armitta Witt** ('89), Alexander James, 5/16/98

Rudy and Stacey (Ooms) Tolkamp ('89, '90), Kaiden Willem, 10/24/98

Dale and Cindy (Terpstra) Fopma ('90, '90), adopted Carly Rose, born 12/29/98

Mark Kuiper (ex '90) and Ellen Roza, Anne Lotte, 2/1/99

Steve and **Brenda Oosterhof** ('90), Darren Kyle, 10/16/98

David and **Kim (Van Ginkel, '90)** Danielson, Kyla Marie and Conrad John, 1/4/99

Gailen and Stephanie (Vos) Veurink ('90, '92), Grant Christian, 8/4/98

Craig and Rachel (Pennings) Vander Zee ('91, '88), Bret Evan, 2/27/98

Scott and Diane (Fopma) Roose ('91, '89), Caleb Scott, 10/25/98

Jim and Thelma (Tuininga) Sawtelle (ex '91, '89), Nathan James, 1/3/99

Carl and Brenda (Atsma) Dragt ('91, '91), Kennedy Janelle, 10/31/98

Todd and **April (Hofman, ex '91)** Kooi, Makenna Rae, 12/12/98

Kevin and **Kristin Jansma** ('91), Derrick Samuel, 8/24/98

Dan and **Sheila (Molendyk, '91)** De Groot, Morgan Rose, 9/7/98

Hank and **Brenda (Tuininga, '91)** Vroom, Kimberlee Joelle, 12/6/98

Rick and **Stacey Vander Haar** ('91), Chase Allen, 12/25/98

Fred and Julie (Ter Maaten) Broersma ('91, '92), Kristen Ann, 1/12/99

Craig and Teresa (Guthmiller) Eckels ('91, '92), Elizabeth Johanna, 6/10/98

Joel and Sheri (Schuring) Haveman ('91, '93), Scott Levi, 2/3/99

Rob and Diane (Alsum) Krommendyk (ex '91, '93), Noah Fredric, 9/21/98

Allen and Crysta (Bonestroo) Brummel ('91, ex '94), Brandyn Trey, 10/27/98

Curt and Jewel (Flikkema) Van Voorst ('93, '92), Devin Wayne, 2/20/99

Dave and Cindy (Hoekstra) Gritters ('92, '92), Cody David, 11/23/98

Stanley and Brenda (Byker) Haak ('92, ex '92), Emily Joy, 3/1/99

Ed and **Hester (Houweling, ex '92)** Mulder, Alexis Sophia, 2/19/96;

Madison Vanessa, 6/9/98

Kevin and **Debbie Sterk** (ex '92), Kaden John, 1/13/99

Steve and **Tracie Vanden Berg** ('92), Joshua Ryan, 10/5/98

Kevin and Nicole (Den Ouden) Dyk ('93, '93), Russel James, 11/26/98

Scott and Pam (Alexander) Hilbelink ('93, '94), Katelyn Nora, 12/27/98

Jon and Eileen (Bakker) Buiter ('93, ex '95), Erika Lynn, 12/26/98

Eliot and Sue (Cuperus) Blom ('94, '93), Lexi, 10/4/98

Erik and Sherri (Van Schepen) Oostenink ('94, '93), Shannon Nicole, 9/23/98

Henry and Pam (Pierik) Van Zanten ('94, '93), Danielle Leanne, 10/29/98

Ira and **Karen M. (Bakker, '94)** Witt, Kansas Marie, 1/10/99

Matthew and Beverly (Doppenberg) Beimers ('94, '94), Anneke Joy, 9/29/98

Jack and Ellie (Vander Woude) Hoekstra ('94, '95), Cara Ann, 10/10/98

Jeff and **Kathy De Koter** ('95), Calvin Ryan, 2/6/99

Dan and **Sara (Eekhoff, '95)** Winterfeld, Karsyn Jo, 11/14/98

Steve and **Kristi (Kielstra, ex '95)** Geerlinks, Daniel Benjamin, 7/9/98

Rodney and Kerry (Bolkema) Lamfers ('95, '95), Ashley Renae, 12/19/98

Joel and Valerie (Gritters) Minderhoud ('95, '95), Kara Rachele, 7/30/98

Jeff and Shona (Van Corbach) Ten Pas ('95, '95), Taylor Anne, 1/6/99

Troy and Debra (Herredsberg) Meyer ('95, '96), Emma Joy, 10/29/98

Chad and Sue (Vanden Brink) Uittenbogaard ('95, ex '96), Emily Mae, 1/10/99

Todd and **Cindy (Fox, ex '96)** Neis, Alyssa Joy and Trevor Austin, 10/11/98

Jason and **Kristy (Rayhons, '96)** Pavelka, Logan James, 7/20/98

Brian and **Constance Glover** ('98), Jeremiah Daniel, 9/23/98

In Memory

Sander Verburg ('89) died in an accident in February. Sander leaves his wife, Betty (Beenen, '87) and two children, Hannah and Reuben.



Pictured on the Dordt Blades Alumni Team: back row (l to r): Frank Vande Kraats ('85), Elco Vander Grift ('81), Henry Vander Meer ('76), Jack Oudman ('79), Brian Vander Veen (ex '83), Andy Haarsma ('83), Bryan Knol (ex '83), John De Hoog (ex '90), Rich Vyn ('98). Front row: Jeff Plantinga ('88), Cecil Van Niejenhuis ('77), Peter Buisman ('79), Ed Kaemingh, Jim Hummel ('89), John Huitsing ('79).

Blades play alumni team in Edmonton

Over 150 Edmonton area alumni and friends cheered as the Dordt Blades Alumni beat the Dordt Blades 7-5 on a cold and snowy Friday, January 1999 evening in Edmonton, Alberta.

Dordt alumni spanned a generation ranging from Henry Vander Meer ('76) to Richard Vyn ('98). The alumni team was led by Peter Buisman ('79) with two goals and Ed Kaemingh with stellar third-period goaltending. The only alumni penalty of the game was a tripping penalty taken by board member Rev.

Cecil Van Niejenhuis ('77), who had the privilege of playing against his son Nathan, currently a sophomore at Dordt. With one minute to go in the third period, the entire Blades team rushed onto the ice to try to score the equalizer. The alumni responded by scrambling out to aid their beleaguered comrades.

After the game, current Dordt Blades, alumni, and friends gathered to celebrate with an assortment of snacks and beverages. The event was organized by Brian Vander Veen (ex '83) and Jim Hummel ('89).

The **Voice**, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The **Voice** is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and needs of the college. Send address corrections and correspondence to **VOICE**, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697.

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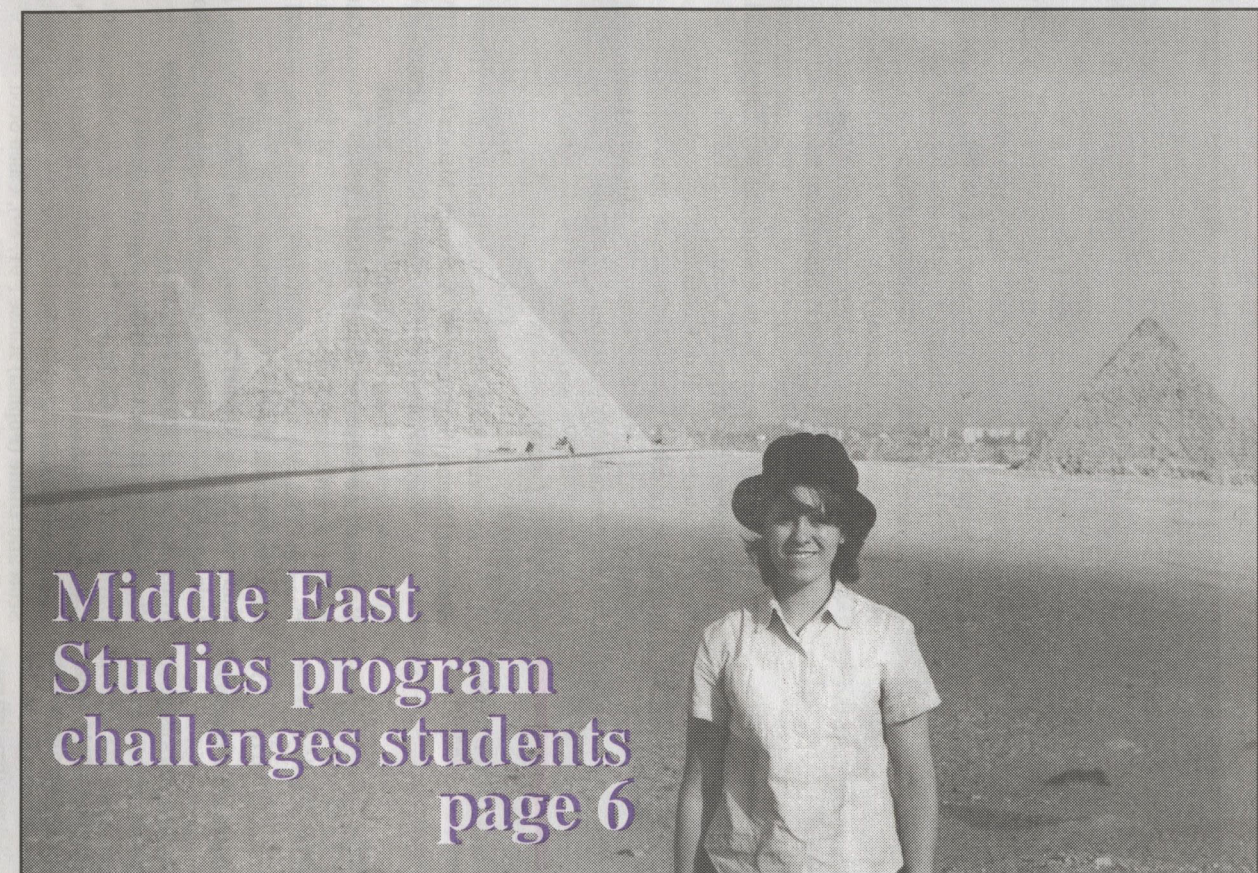
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the VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

SPRING 1999
VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3



**Middle East
Studies program
challenges students**
page 6

EVENTS

Art

*The gallery is in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.
It is open days/evenings of performances.*

Mar. 29-April 10 Junior Student Art Show
April 6 Senior Student Art Show
April 20 Senior Student Art Show

Music

All events are held in the B.J. Haan Auditorium

Apr. 9 3:00 p.m. Department Recital
7:30 p.m. American Celebration Duo
Apr. 16 7:00 p.m. High School Band Festival Concert
Apr. 20 7:30 p.m. Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert
Apr. 23 3:00 p.m. Department Recital
Apr. 28 7:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Concert
Apr. 30 3:00 p.m. Department Recital
7:30 p.m. Spring Choral Concert
May 2 2:30 p.m. National Lutheran Choir

Campus Activities

Events held in the B.J. Haan Auditorium unless indicated.

Apr. 2 3:15 p.m. Good Friday Meditation
Apr. 3 10:00 p.m. Easter Celebration
Apr. 4 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
Apr. 23 7:30 p.m. Travelogue: Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg
May 6 8:00 p.m. Parents' Night
May 7 10:00 a.m. Commencement
May 9-15 Elderhostel

Sports

All games listed are home games, except tournaments.

Apr. 3 1:00 p.m. MBB vs. Mt. Marty
Apr. 6 4:00 p.m. MBB vs. Buena Vista
4:00 p.m. WSB vs. Southwest State
Apr. 7 4:00 p.m. WSB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Apr. 8 4:00 p.m. MBB vs. Sioux Falls
Apr. 9 & 10 WSB Northwest Iowa Classic at Orange City
Apr. 10 10:00 a.m. Track: Dordt Invitational
Apr. 12 4:00 p.m. WSB vs. Dakota State
Apr. 13 4:00 p.m. MBB vs. Briar Cliff
Apr. 15 4:00 p.m. MBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Apr. 17 1:00 p.m. MBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Apr. 20 4:00 p.m. MBB vs. Northwestern
4:00 p.m. WSB vs. Huron
Apr. 22 4:00 p.m. WSB vs. Briar Cliff
Apr. 24 1:00 p.m. MBB vs. Huron
Apr. 29 4:00 p.m. MBB vs. Dakota State
May 6-8 MBB SDIC Conference
Tournament at Sioux Falls
May 13-15 MBB Great Plains Regional
Tournament
May 20-22 Track: NAIA Nationals at
Tulsa, OK

Theater

Plays are performed in the New World Theatre.

Apr. 15 7:30 p.m. Romeo and Juliet
Apr. 17 7:30 p.m. Romeo and Juliet
Apr. 23 7:30 p.m. Student-directed One Acts
Apr. 24 7:30 p.m. Student-directed One Acts

**Service
learning
benefits the
community**

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**Dr. Brian Fikkert
is this year's
Distinguished
Alum**

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**Theology course
trains students
to disciple multi-
ethnic neighbors**

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